

STAR WARS™

REVENGE OF THE SITH



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"Darth Vader Rises" written by Rebecca L. Schmidt

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STAR WARS™

REVENGE OF THE SITH

Based on the story and screenplay by
George Lucas

Illustrations by
Brian Rood



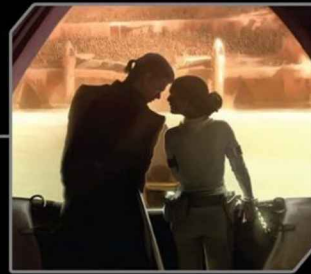
LOS ANGELES • NEW YORK

THE STAR WARS SAGA

TIMELINE



THE PHANTOM MENACE



ATTACK OF THE CLONES



REVENGE OF THE SITH



A NEW HOPE



THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK



RETURN OF THE JEDI



THE FORCE AWAKENS

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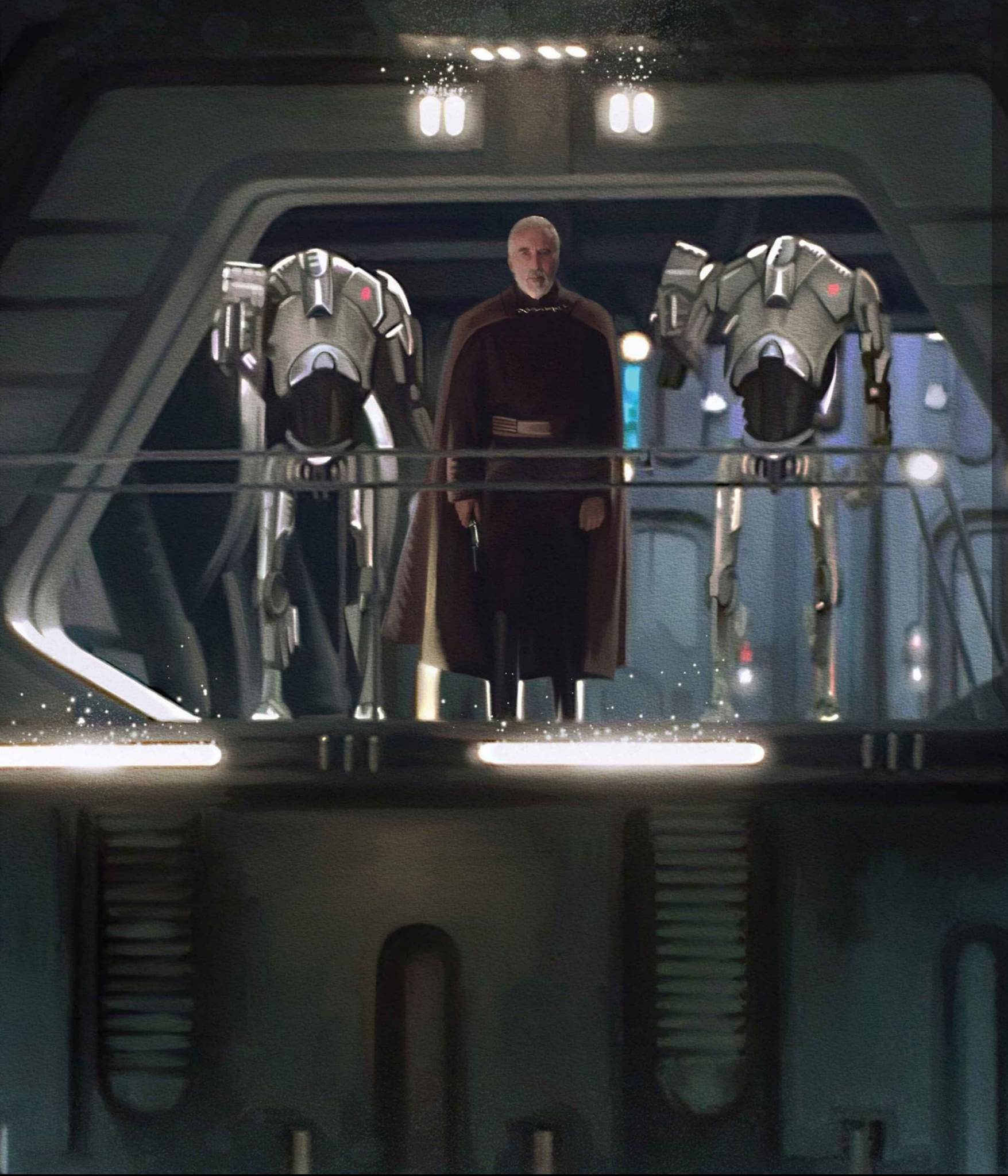
THE RULE OF TWO

DARTH VADER RISES





A long time ago in a galaxy far,
far away. . . .



THE DUEL WITH DOOKU





THE DUEL WITH DOOKU

The Galactic Republic was crumbling under attacks from the ruthless Sith Lord Count Dooku.

In a stunning move, Dooku and the fiendish cyborg leader General Grievous had kidnapped Chancellor Palpatine, leader of the Galactic Senate.

But while the Separatist droid army attempted to flee with its valuable hostage, Jedi Knights Obi-Wan Kenobi and Anakin Skywalker undertook a risky mission to rescue the Chancellor.

In their ships, Obi-Wan and Anakin battled through a swarm of deadly droid fighters until Anakin's incredible skill as a pilot enabled them to successfully reach Count Dooku's command vessel, a Trade Federation cruiser.

Suddenly, Anakin and Obi-Wan were attacked by battle droids coming at them from all directions! Lightsabers flashing, the Jedi defeated them swiftly.

R2-D2 accessed the cruiser's computers and discovered that Chancellor Palpatine was being held prisoner on an observation platform many levels away.

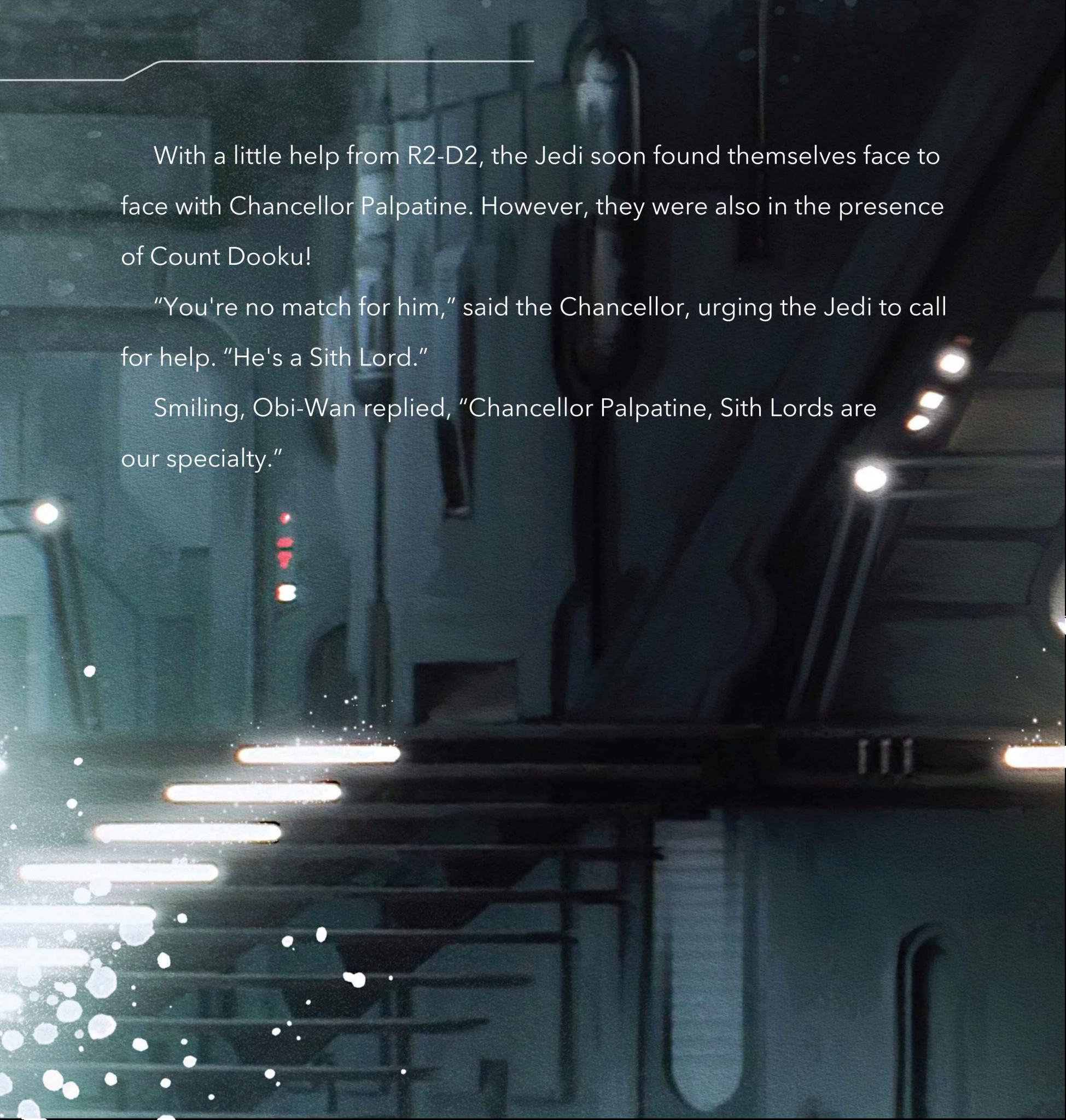
Leaving R2 to guard Anakin's ship, the Jedi Knights made their way to the Chancellor's location.

"I sense Count Dooku," said Anakin.

"I sense a trap," replied Obi-Wan, and he was right: General Grievous was tracking their every move!



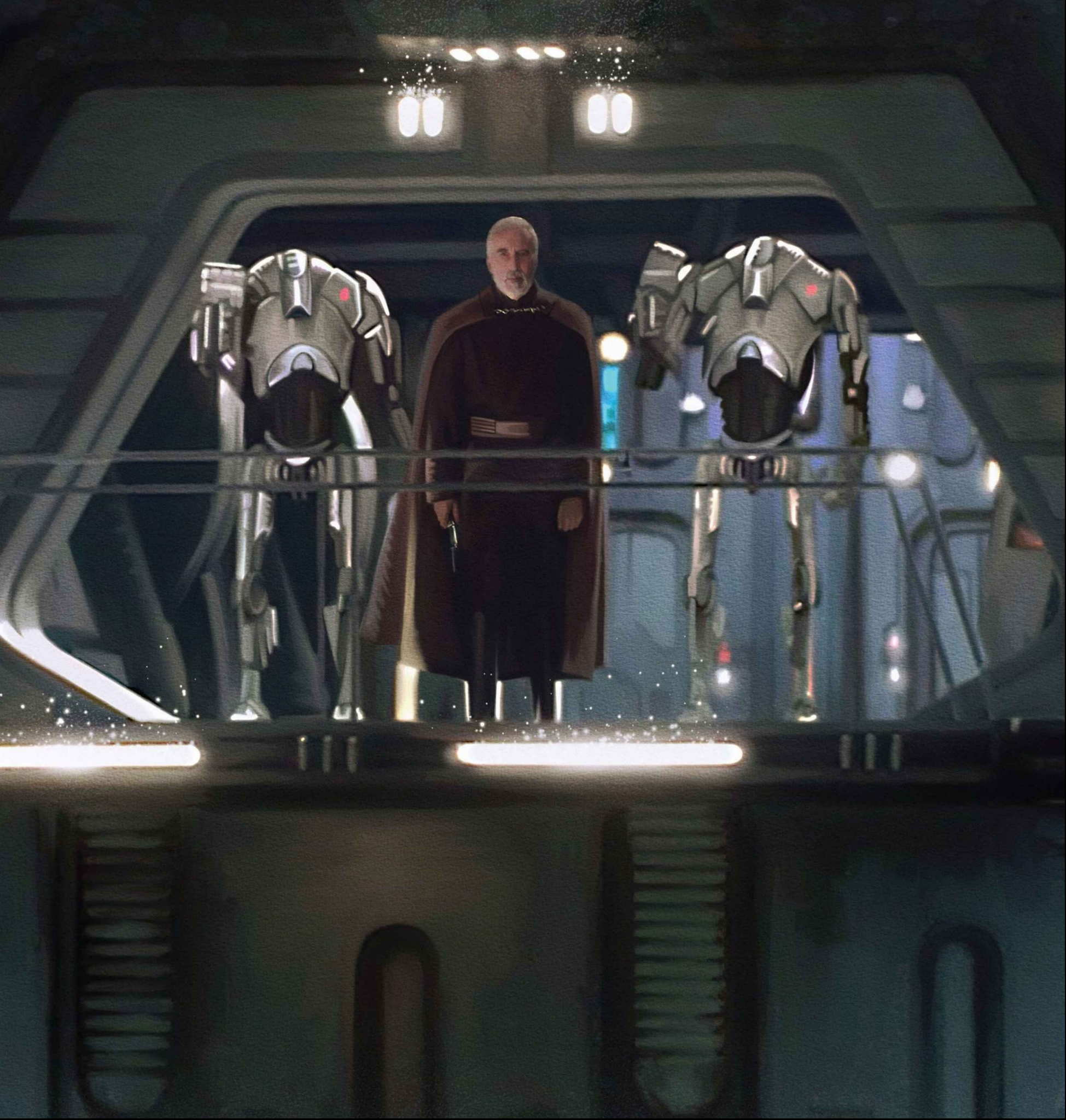




With a little help from R2-D2, the Jedi soon found themselves face to face with Chancellor Palpatine. However, they were also in the presence of Count Dooku!

"You're no match for him," said the Chancellor, urging the Jedi to call for help. "He's a Sith Lord."

Smiling, Obi-Wan replied, "Chancellor Palpatine, Sith Lords are our specialty."



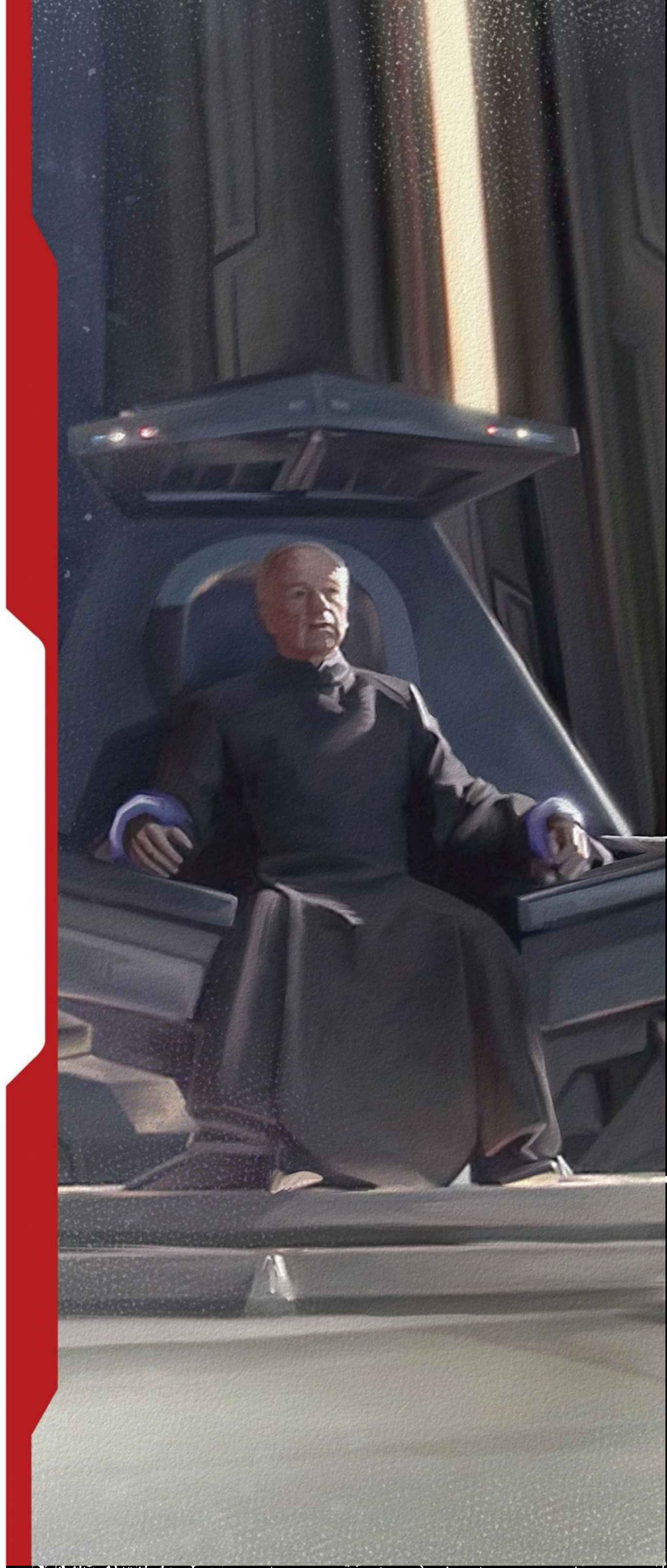
The Jedi Knights ignited their lightsabers, but Dooku parried their every attack.

"I've been looking forward to this," gloated Dooku.

"My powers have doubled since the last time we met," Anakin replied.

Using the Force, Dooku sent Obi-Wan flying. The Jedi Knight was knocked unconscious. It would be up to Anakin to defeat Dooku alone, but the Sith Lord was confident *he* would be the victor.

"I sense great fear in you," said the Sith Lord to his opponent. "You have hate, you have anger, but you don't use them."





Anakin attacked the Count with even greater ferocity. He was stronger than Dooku, and soon the Count was on his knees, begging for mercy.

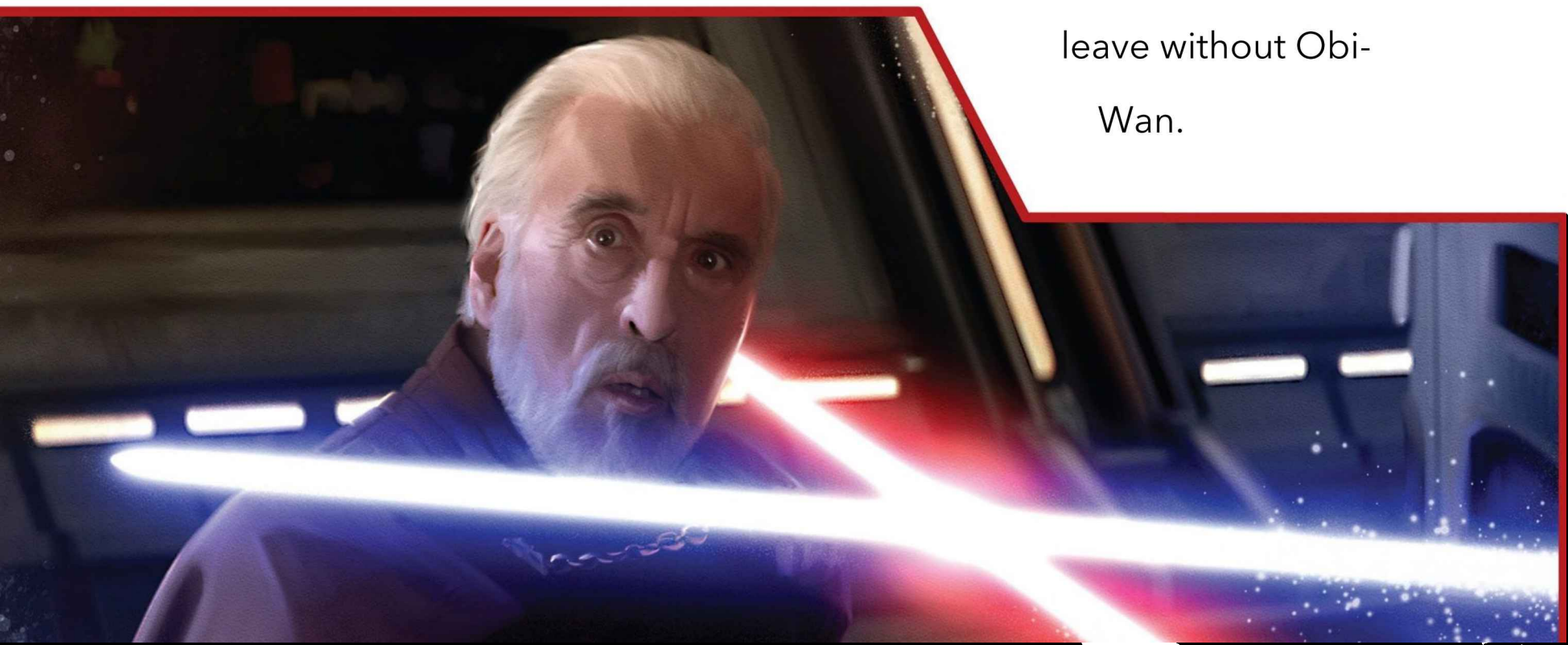
Chancellor Palpatine encouraged Anakin to end the battle and kill the Separatist leader.

Killing an unarmed prisoner was not the Jedi way, and the young Skywalker was uncertain what to do. "I shouldn't . . ." he said, hesitating, but Palpatine urged him on.

Anakin yielded to Palpatine's request, and defeated Dooku.

"It's only natural," Palpatine reassured the Jedi. "You wanted revenge. . . . Now we must leave before more security droids arrive."

But Anakin wouldn't
leave without Obi-
Wan.





"Leave him, or we'll never make it," urged Palpatine.

"His fate will be the same as ours," replied a defiant Anakin, lifting the unconscious Obi-Wan over his shoulder.

Damaged by the clone army's assault, the cruiser was beginning to drift in space.

Obi-Wan stirred as the group neared the hangar, but soon the group was boxed in by ray shields, unable to move.

"How did this happen?" Obi-Wan asked, disappointed in Anakin's rescue attempt.

Anakin tried to reassure his mentor. "Artoo will be along in a few moments. He'll release the ray shields."

R2-D2 did arrive shortly, but he was followed by dozens of enemy droids, who took the rescue party and Palpatine to the evil General Grievous.

"Do you have a plan B?" asked Obi-Wan.

Grievous, holding both Jedi's lightsabers, taunted his prisoners:
"That wasn't much of a rescue."





Obi-Wan ignored the insult.

"We have a job to do," the Jedi Master explained as he used the Force to summon his lightsaber from Grievous's hand, and then he swiftly freed himself and Anakin from their restraints.

They quickly defeated the battle droids, but Grievous managed to slip away and flee the damaged cruiser in an escape pod!



As the ship's alarms began to ring, the Jedi Knights realized that there was no way to get back to their ship. And what was worse, General Grievous had launched all the cruiser's escape pods, meaning they had only one slim chance of survival.



"Can you fly a cruiser like this?" Obi-Wan asked Anakin.

"You mean do I know how to land what's left of it?" the young Jedi countered. "Strap yourselves in."

Anakin took the pilot's chair as the ship plummeted toward Coruscant!

With pieces flying off the burning ship as it entered Coruscant's atmosphere, Anakin steered his way toward an industrial landing strip. In a cloud of fire and smoke, the wrecked vehicle touched down roughly, leaving the Jedi Knights and the Chancellor safe at last!

"Another happy landing," Obi-Wan said with a sigh.





THE CYBORG AND THE JEDI

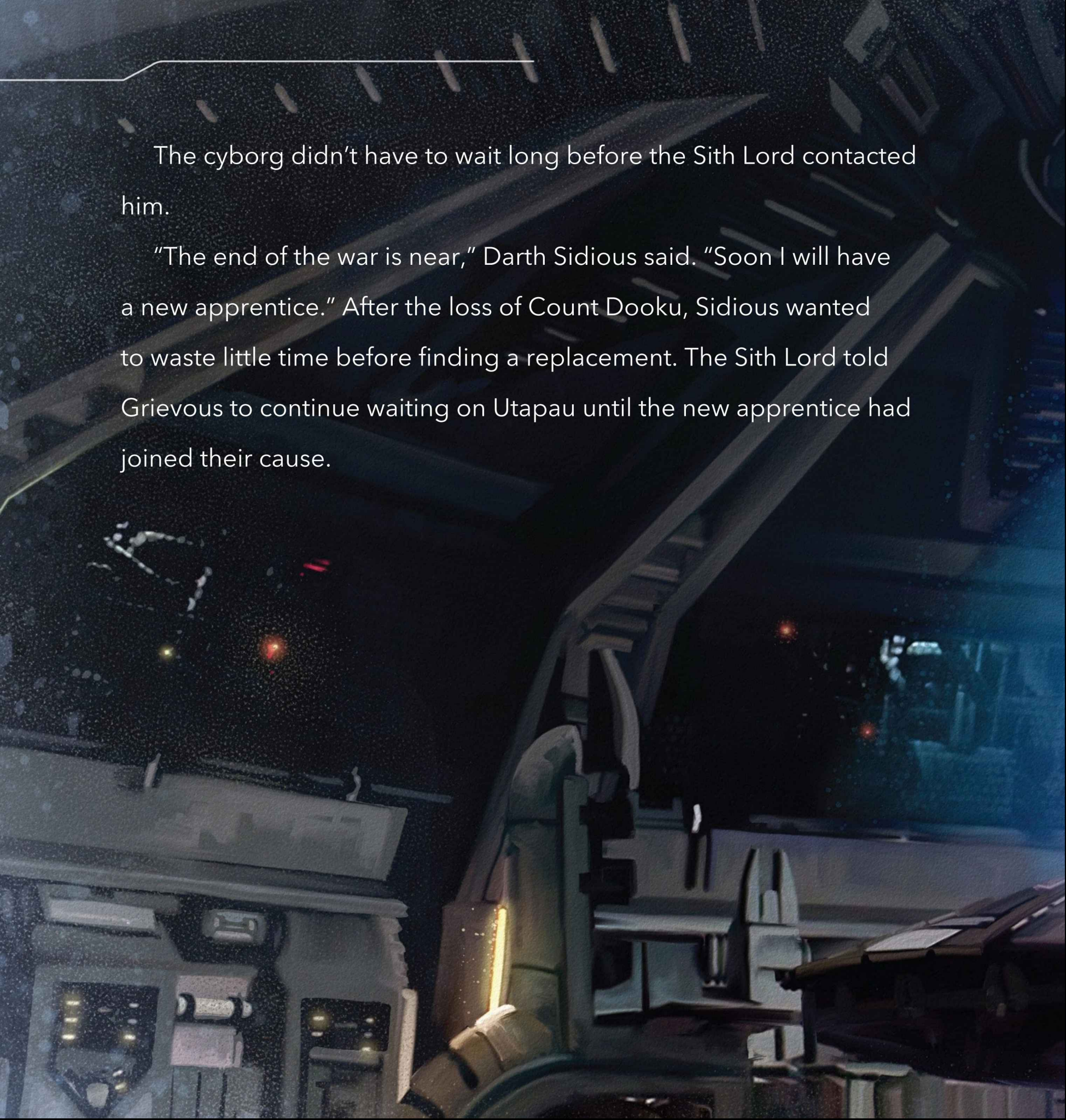




THE CYBORG AND THE JEDI

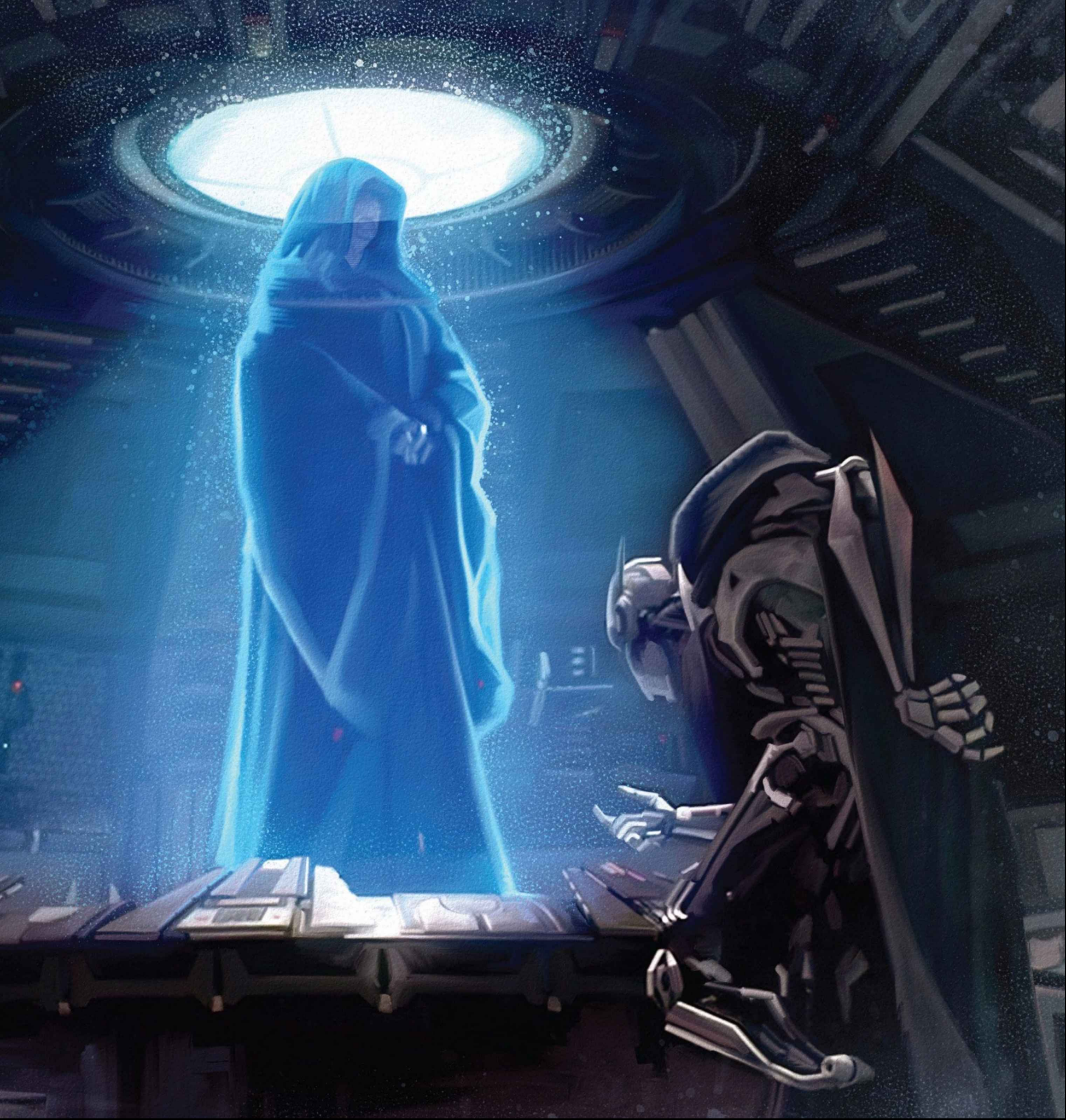
At the edge of the galaxy, the fearsome cyborg General Grievous was on the run from the Jedi and their clone army.

After his attempt to kidnap the leader of the Senate had failed, General Grievous and his droid army had retreated to Utapau. The remote planet was the perfect place to hide while he waited for instructions from his master, Darth Sidious.

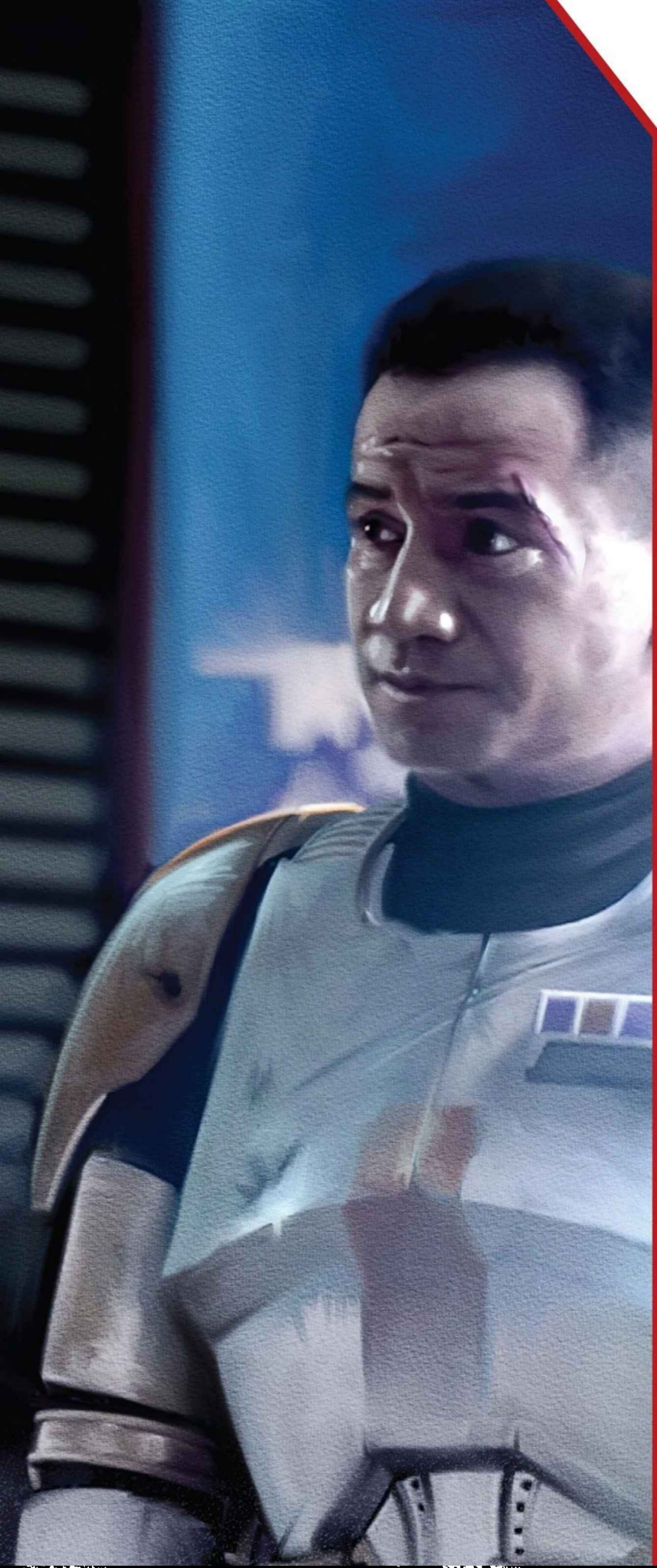


The cyborg didn't have to wait long before the Sith Lord contacted him.

"The end of the war is near," Darth Sidious said. "Soon I will have a new apprentice." After the loss of Count Dooku, Sidious wanted to waste little time before finding a replacement. The Sith Lord told Grievous to continue waiting on Utapau until the new apprentice had joined their cause.







But the Jedi Council had discovered that Grievous and his droid army were on Utapau. Like Sidious, the Jedi believed the war would end soon—if only they could capture General Grievous. So the Jedi sent Obi-Wan and a platoon of clone troopers to drive out Grievous and destroy his army once and for all.

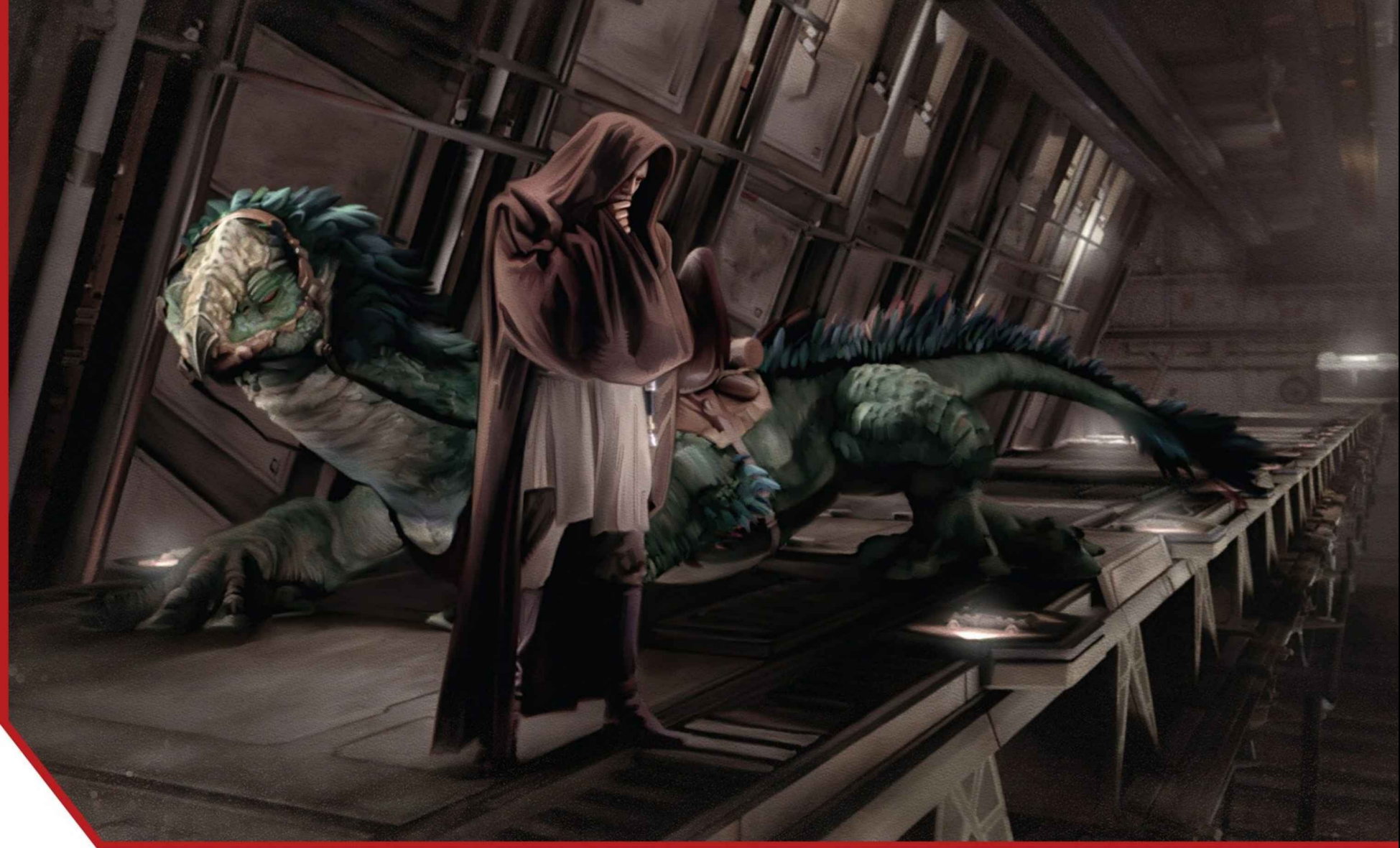
Obi-Wan met with his men before the battle and gave them their orders. Obi-Wan would fly ahead and keep Grievous from escaping. Then the clone troopers would land and take care of Grievous's army.

When Obi-Wan landed on Utapau, he didn't have to look far to find Grievous. A Pau'an leader met Obi-Wan at his ship and leaned in close.

"He is here! They are watching us," the man whispered. "The tenth level . . . thousands of battle droids . . ."

Obi-Wan instructed the Pau'an to tell his people to take shelter.





Obi-Wan mounted a feathery varactyl and set off to confront Grievous. Just as the Pau'an had said, the tenth level was swarming with droids—and their evil leader was at the center of it all. The Jedi and the cyborg had fought each other once before, but Obi-Wan wasn't going to let Grievous escape this time. Obi-Wan took off his bulky robe and leapt out of the shadows.

"Hello, there," Obi-Wan said with a tight smile.

"General Kenobi." Grievous laughed. "You are a bold one."

Obi-Wan quickly drew his lightsaber and cut down Grievous's guard droids.

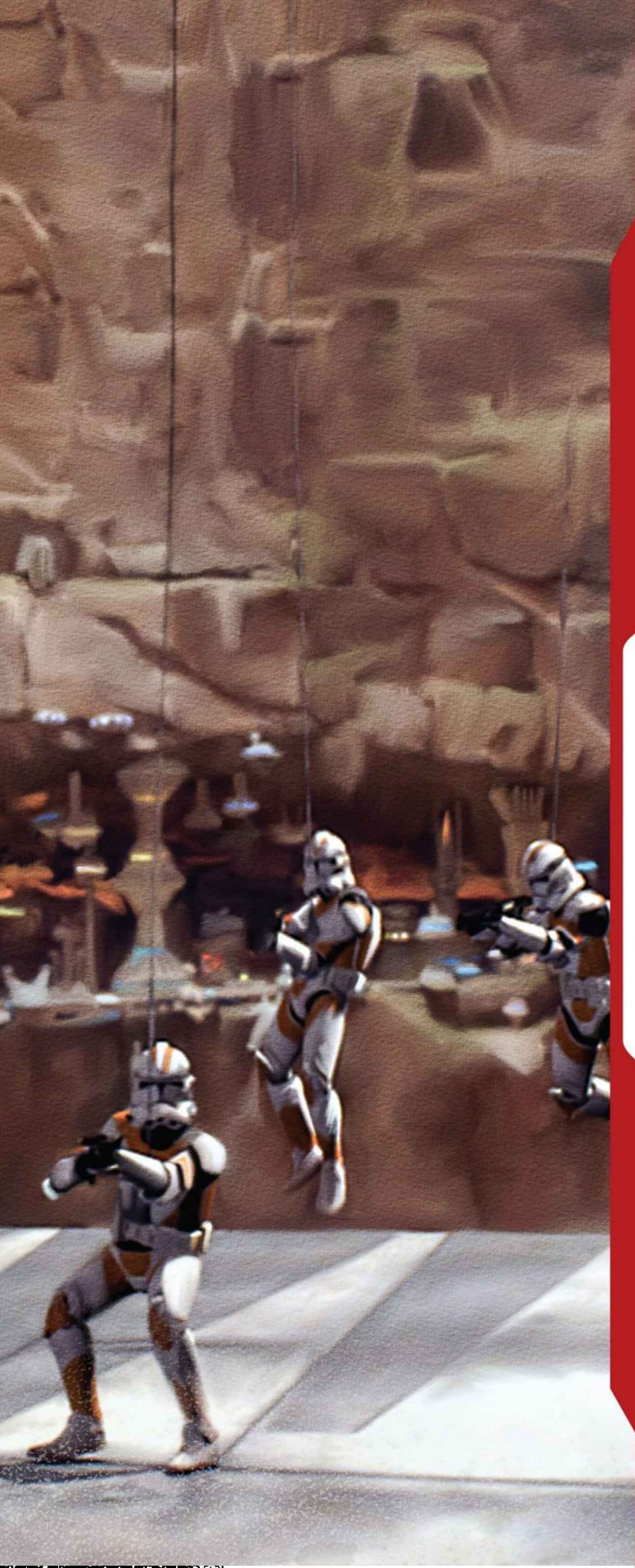
"You fool. I have been trained in your Jedi arts," Grievous said. The cyborg extended his four arms, revealing that each one held a lightsaber. Obi-Wan heard the snap-hiss of the blades igniting as Grievous stomped forward, spinning two of the blades above his head. He dragged the other two along the ground, sending sparks hurtling toward Obi-Wan.

The Jedi waited for the perfect moment, then stabbed his lightsaber between Grievous's flashing blades.

Obi-Wan cut through two of Grievous's lightsabers, disarming half of the cyborg's deadly weapons. Obi-Wan pressed his advantage, driving Grievous back farther and farther.







The droids watched as their leader lost more and more ground. But before they could help Grievous fight back, a hail of blaster bolts filled the air. The clone troopers had arrived!

"Army or not, you must realize you're doomed," Grievous said.

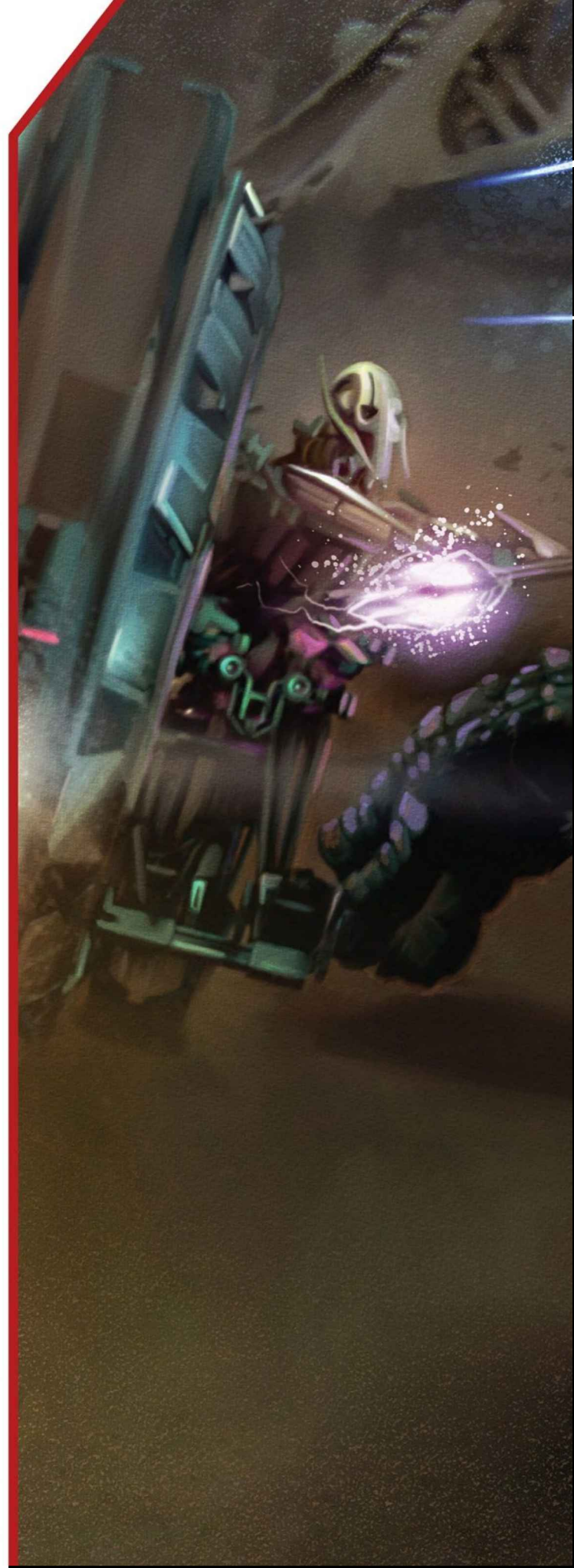
"Oh, I don't think so," Obi-Wan replied. He used the Force to push Grievous up against a wall, causing the cyborg to drop his remaining two lightsabers.



Grievous tried to run away by jumping on board a wheel bike. But Obi-Wan's varactyl friend was still nearby. Obi-Wan leapt onto the speedy beast and raced after Grievous.

The Jedi urged his varactyl as close as he could to Grievous's speeding bike and jumped on board. Grievous attempted to defend himself with an electrostaff and a blaster, but Obi-Wan tipped the bike over, spilling Obi-Wan, Grievous, and his weapons onto a small landing pad.

Grievous grabbed the electrostaff and forced Obi-Wan over the edge of the platform. The Jedi fought to hold on to the side of the landing pad, defenseless against Grievous's blows.







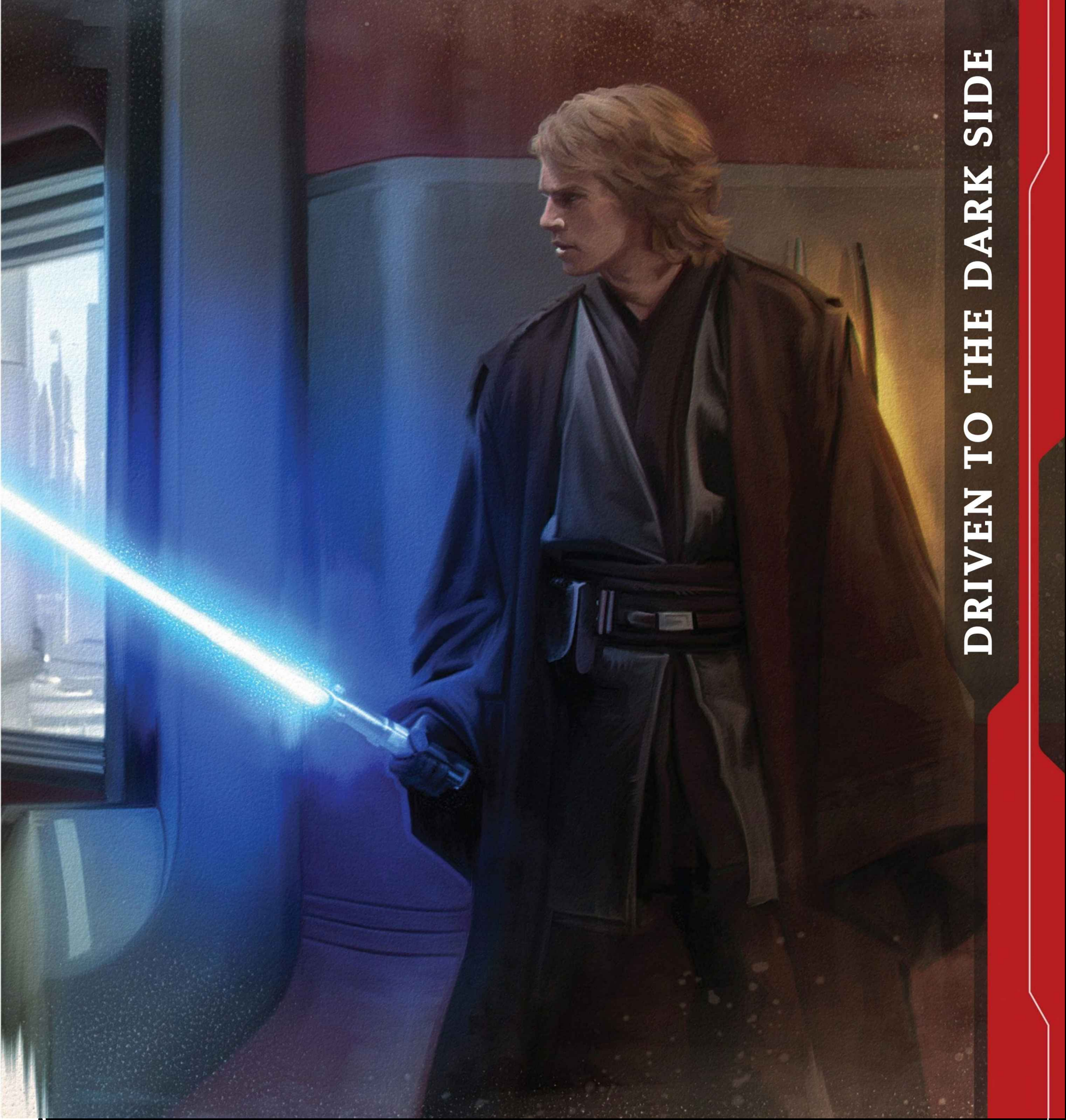
Obi-Wan looked desperately around for anything that could help him—until he spotted Grievous’s blaster! The Jedi reached out with the Force and drew the blaster into his hand. Without hesitating, he fired at Grievous, finally defeating the cyborg once and for all.

As Obi-Wan looked at the smoking blaster in his hand, he quickly tossed it aside.

“So uncivilized,” he muttered.

Grievous was gone, and his droid army would soon be defeated, as well.

The Jedi were closer than ever to finally ending the Clone War.



DRIVEN TO THE DARK SIDE



Jedi Knight Anakin Skywalker returned to Coruscant a hero. He'd rescued Chancellor Palpatine, defeated Count Dooku, and saved the life of his master, Obi-Wan Kenobi. The Senate wanted to honor Anakin's bravery, but the only person he wanted to see was his wife, Senator Padmé Amidala. And she had news.

Padmé was pregnant!

"This is a happy moment," said Anakin.

But the Jedi also knew that if anyone found out about their growing family, Padmé could lose her Senate seat and he would be expelled from the Jedi Order. What were they going to do?



That night, Anakin awoke from a frightening vision. He had dreamed that something terrible was going to happen to Padmé.

"What's bothering you?" Padmé asked.

When Anakin told Padmé what he'd seen, she told him not to worry.

"It was only a dream."

But Anakin swore to find a way to protect his wife. He wondered if Master Yoda could help him.

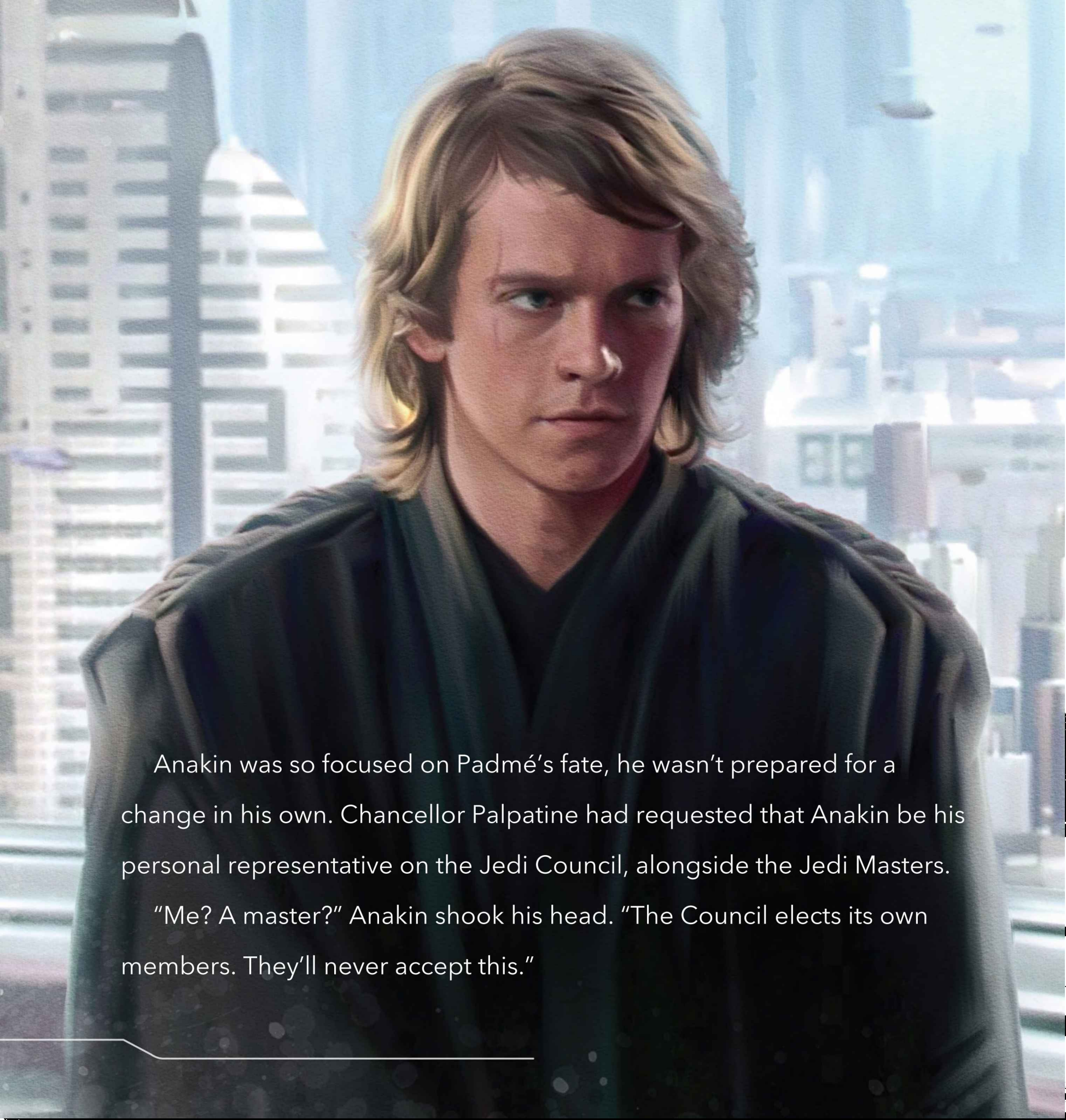
D R I V E N T O T H E D A R K S I D E

Anakin's questions worried the Jedi Master.

"Careful you must be when sensing the future, Anakin," Yoda warned. "Fear of loss is a path to the dark side. Train yourself to let go of everything you fear to lose."

Anakin stared at his hands. Padmé was his world. He would find a way to protect her . . . no matter what it cost him.



A close-up shot of Anakin Skywalker, played by Hayden Christensen, looking off to the side with a serious expression. He has shoulder-length blonde hair and is wearing a dark green Jedi robe. The background is a blurred cityscape with tall buildings under a bright sky.

Anakin was so focused on Padmé's fate, he wasn't prepared for a change in his own. Chancellor Palpatine had requested that Anakin be his personal representative on the Jedi Council, alongside the Jedi Masters.

"Me? A master?" Anakin shook his head. "The Council elects its own members. They'll never accept this."





Anakin was right. The Jedi agreed to allow him onto the Council, but they would not grant him the rank of master.

Anakin was outraged. "How can you be on the Council and not be a master?"

Obi-Wan explained that Anakin's role on the Council would be to spy on Chancellor Palpatine. He warned Anakin that something about the Chancellor was out of place.

But Anakin trusted Palpatine, and he wasn't happy with his new assignment. The Council had asked him to act against the Jedi Code. Was this truly the Jedi way?

DRIVEN TO THE DARK SIDE

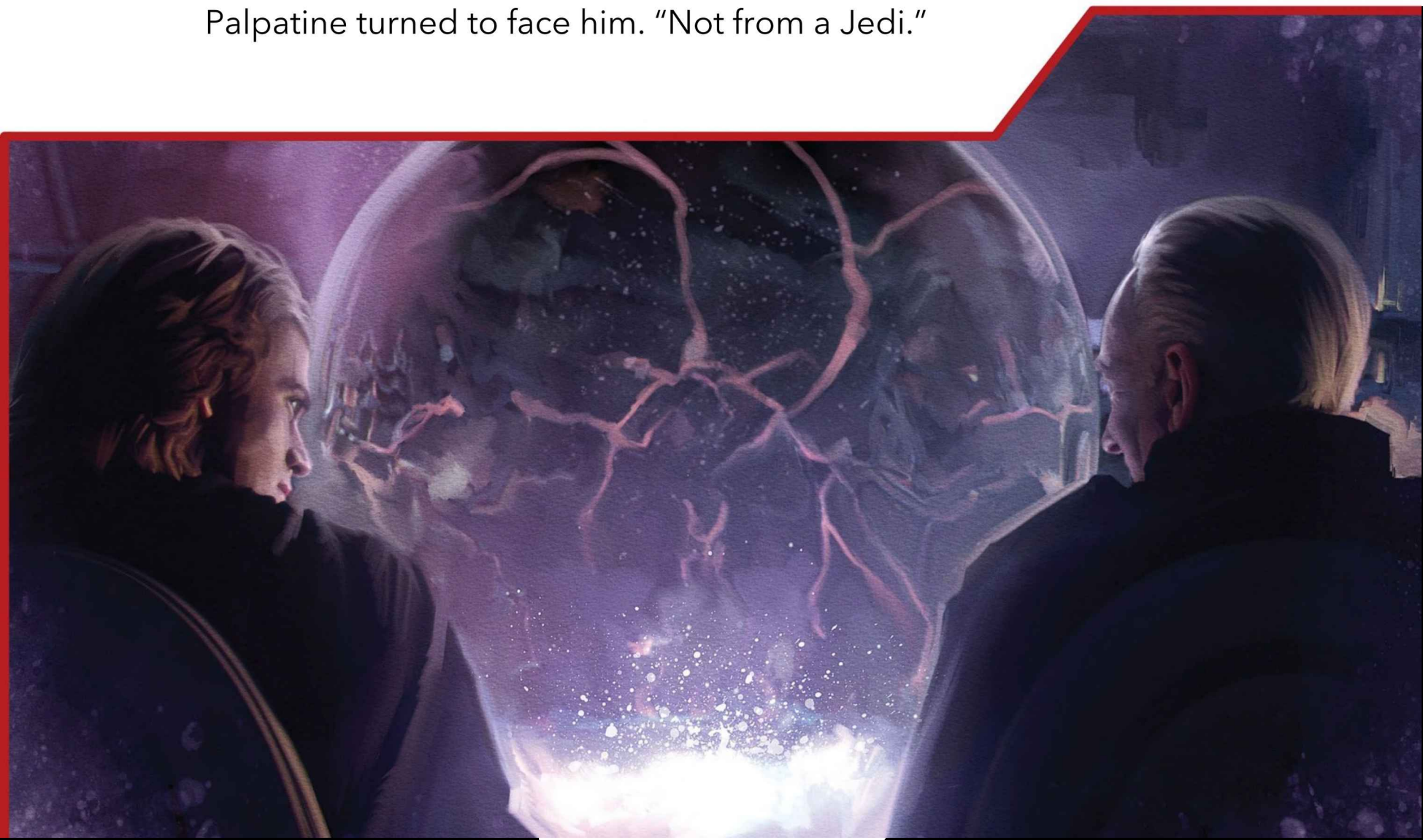
One night at the opera, Palpatine told Anakin the story of a Sith Lord named Darth Plagueis. "He had such knowledge of the dark side, he could even keep the ones he cared about from dying."

Anakin sat up straighter. Could the dark side protect Padmé?

"The dark side of the Force is a pathway to many abilities," Palpatine confirmed, "some considered to be unnatural."

"Is it possible to learn this power?" Anakin asked.

Palpatine turned to face him. "Not from a Jedi."



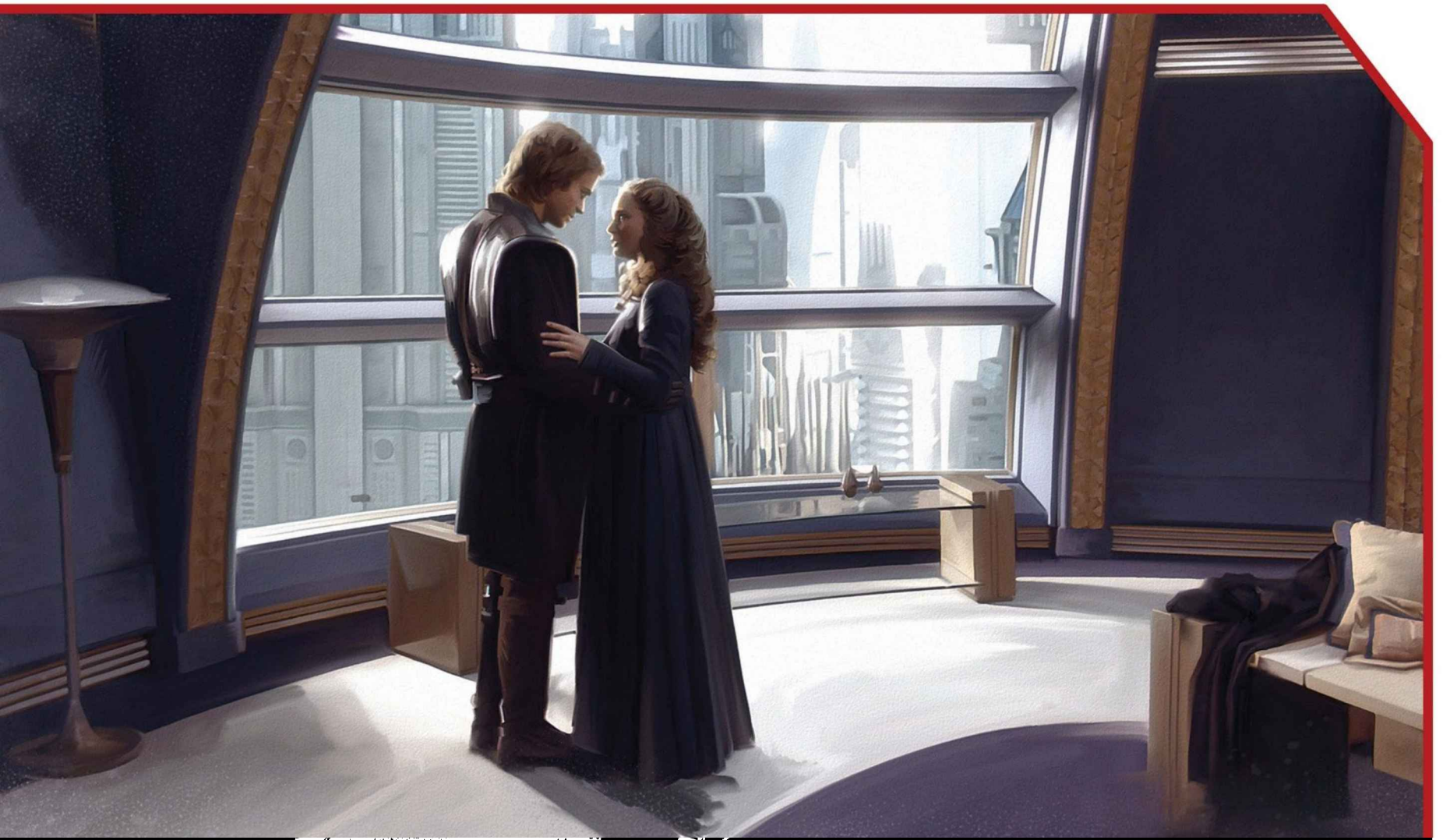
Darth Plagueis's story gave Anakin hope. He told Padmé he had found a way to protect her.

"I won't lose you," he swore.

"I'm not going to die, Ani," Padmé assured him. "I promise."

"No." Anakin leaned in closer. *"I promise you."*

Anakin was determined. But where would he find a Sith to teach him the dark side of the Force?





Anakin found his answer in an unexpected place. When he returned to Palpatine's chambers, the Chancellor offered to help him learn the subtleties of the Force.

"Learn to know the dark side," Palpatine said, "and you will be able to save your wife from certain death."

Anakin drew his lightsaber, the blue blade humming as the words fell into place. "You're the Sith Lord," he concluded. He vowed to turn Palpatine over to the Jedi Council.

"Know the power of the dark side," Palpatine urged. "The power to save Padmé."



Anakin hurried to find Mace Windu.

"Chancellor Palpatine is a Sith Lord," the young Jedi reported.

He wanted to help the Jedi arrest the Chancellor, but Mace Windu ordered Anakin to wait behind.

"Stay out of this affair," Mace Windu cautioned. "There is much fear that clouds your judgment."



Anakin was angry and deeply shaken. Although Palpatine was an enemy of the Republic, he had the power to save Padmé. And Anakin knew that he needed the Sith's help.

Anakin raced to the Senate building. Inside he saw that the Jedi team, powerful as it was, had been no match for the Sith Lord. Only Mace Windu and Palpatine remained.





Palpatine was using Force lightning to try to defeat Master Windu, but it was rapidly draining him of all his energy.

Palpatine called to Anakin, "I have the power to save the one you love."

Anakin paused. The Jedi had freed him from slavery and given him a future. But the Sith had the power to protect his family. He didn't know what to do.

"He is too dangerous to be left alive," Mace Windu threatened.

"He must live," Anakin begged. "I need him!"

As Mace Windu raised his weapon, Anakin panicked and used his own lightsaber to protect Palpatine. At that moment, the Chancellor sent a fresh wave of lightning at Mace Windu, forcing him out the window.



Palpatine rose to face Anakin. With his lined face and yellow eyes, the Chancellor's exterior form now matched the evil true self he had been hiding all along. He was the Sith Lord Darth Sidious!

Anakin was hurt and confused. He dropped to his knees.

"I will do whatever you ask. Just help me save Padmé's life," Anakin pleaded.

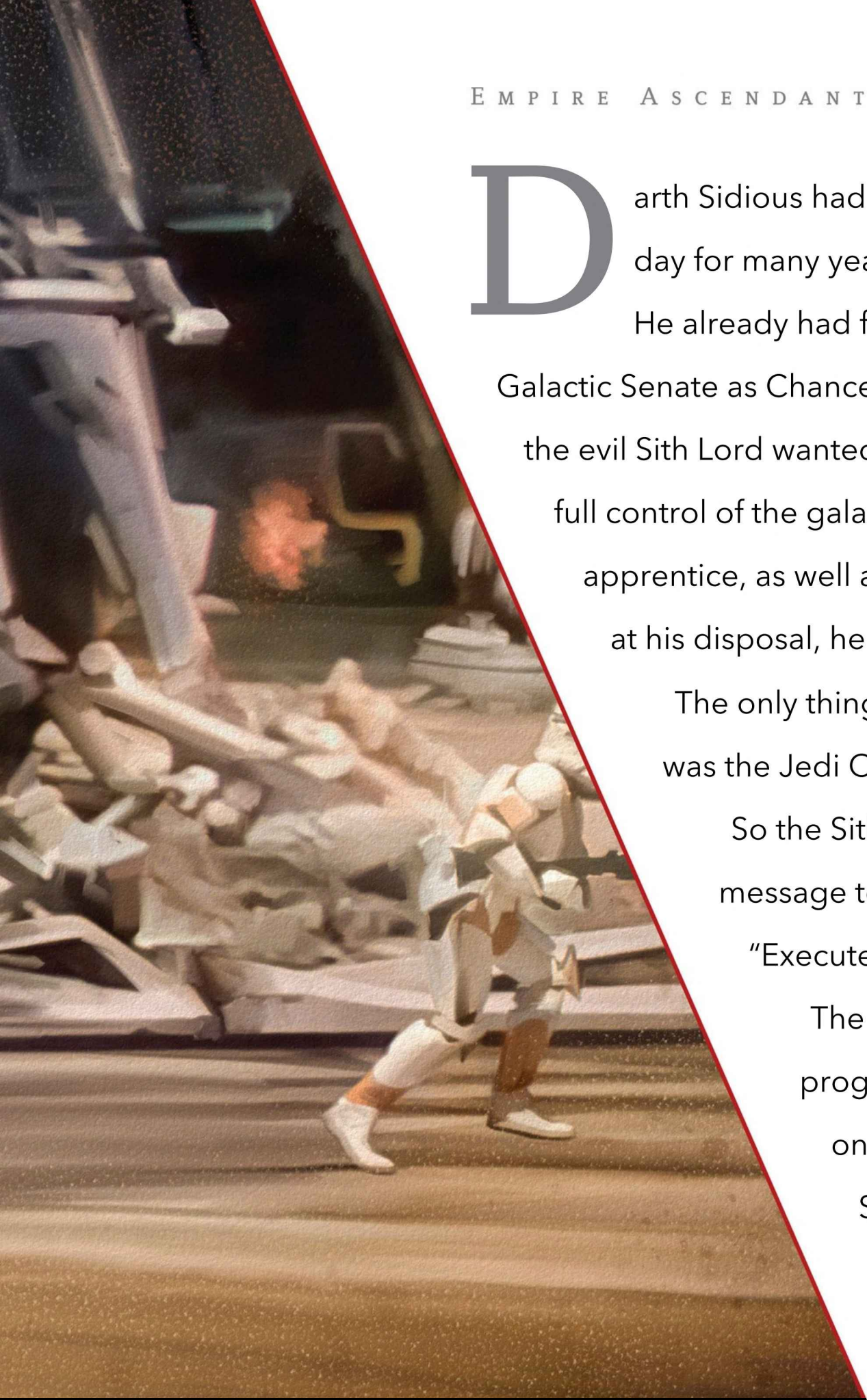
"The Force is strong with you," Darth Sidious observed. "Henceforth you shall be known as Darth Vader."

Darth Sidious had found his new apprentice, and the galaxy would never be the same.



EMPIRE ASCENDANT





Darth Sidious had been planning this day for many years.

He already had full control of the Galactic Senate as Chancellor Palpatine, but the evil Sith Lord wanted more. He wanted full control of the galaxy. And with his new apprentice, as well as an army of clones at his disposal, he would soon have it.

The only thing that stood in his way was the Jedi Order.

So the Sith Lord sent a message to the clone troopers: "Execute Order Sixty-Six."

The clones had been programmed to turn on the Jedi at Darth Sidious's command.

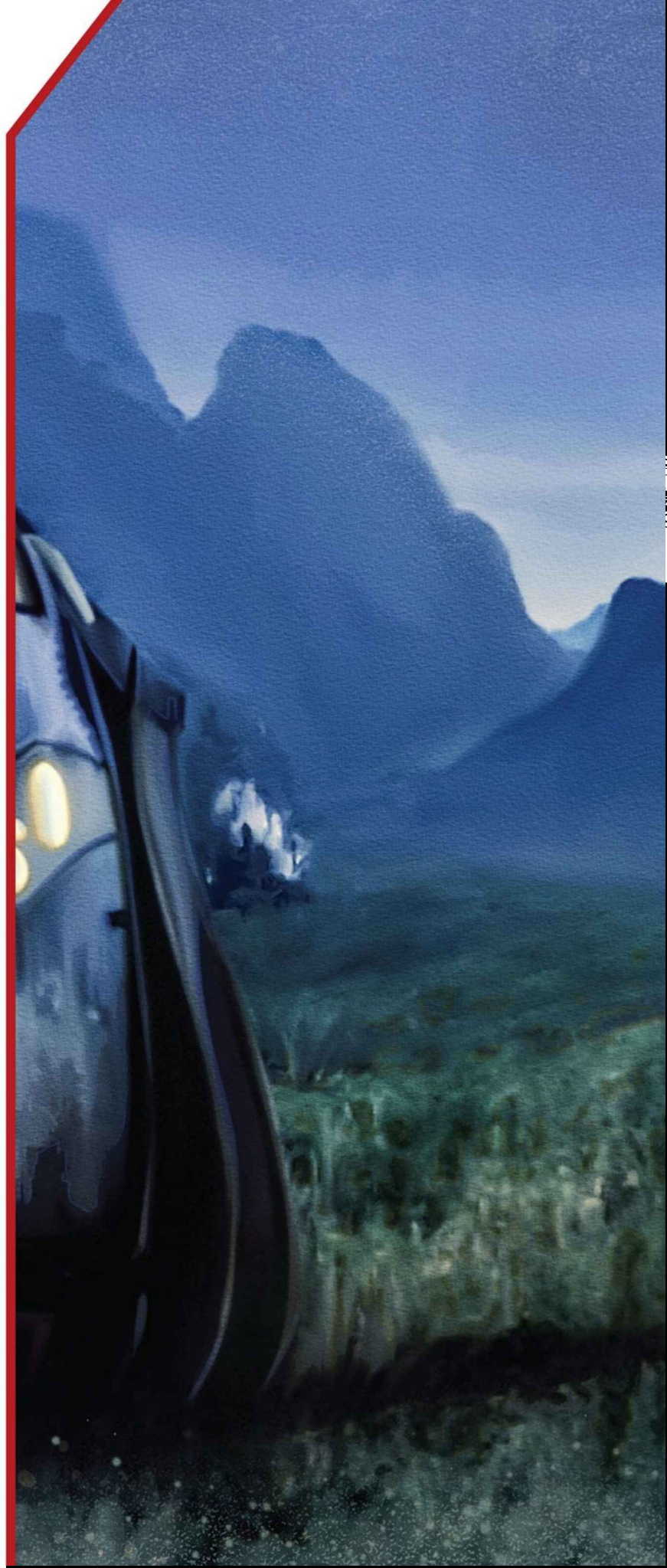
All over the galaxy, clone troopers turned on their Jedi allies.

But the clone troopers were not alone. After pledging his loyalty to Darth Sidious, Anakin Skywalker, now the Sith apprentice known as Darth Vader, marched to the Jedi Temple to destroy all he had once held sacred.





Across the stars, Master Yoda was with a tribe of Wookiees on their home planet of Kashyyyk, where he was negotiating an alliance with the fierce warriors. As the clone troopers' betrayal raged, Yoda suddenly felt a great disturbance in the Force. He felt the pain in his heart just before two clone troopers were about to attack him. But Yoda was not so easily defeated. Wookiee leaders Chewbacca and Tarfful helped Yoda escape. The wise old Jedi Master needed to stop whatever evil was already under way.









Yoda connected with Obi-Wan, who had managed to escape from the clone troopers on Utapau just in time. The two Jedi were joined by their last remaining ally, Senator Bail Organa from Alderaan. The three friends were quickly piecing together the day's terrible events. Obi-Wan asked how many Jedi had managed to survive.

With a heavy heart, Yoda told Obi-Wan, "Received a coded retreat message from the Jedi Temple, we have."

Organa added, "They've requested that all Jedi return to the temple. It says the war is over."

Obi-Wan realized that any remaining Jedi would head to the Jedi Temple and fall into the trap that had been set for them.

Yoda agreed. "Suggest dismantling the coded signal, do you?"

It was a dangerous mission, but the two Jedi knew they needed to protect any other remaining Jedi out in the galaxy.

So Yoda and Obi-Wan fought swiftly and decisively, defeating clone troopers and fighting their way through the halls of the Jedi Temple they had once called home.

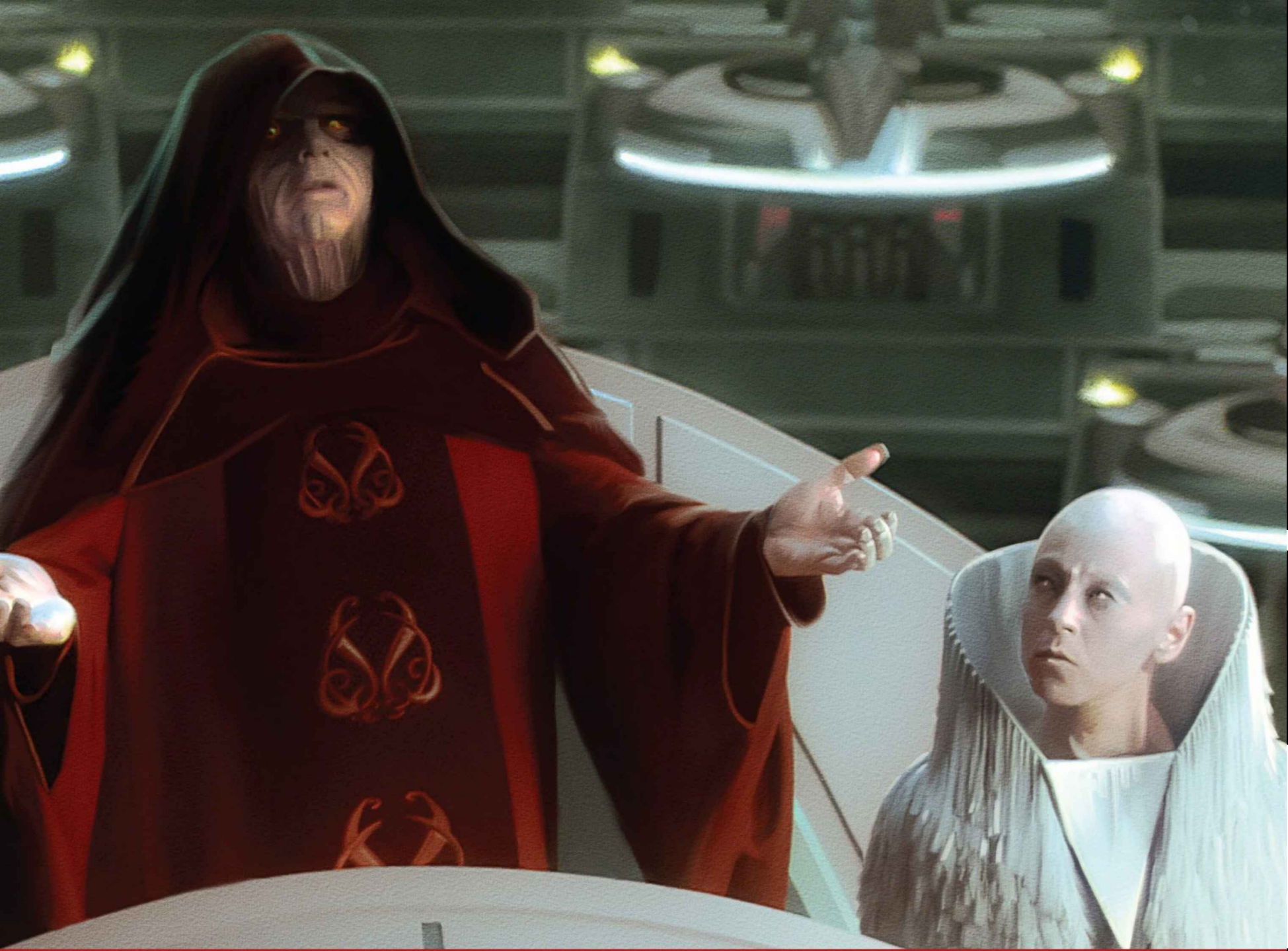






Meanwhile, in the Imperial Senate, Darth Sidious gave an impassioned speech convincing the Senate that the Jedi had instigated the horror.

"The Jedi attack on me has left me scarred and deformed." He raised his hands and announced, "To ensure security, the Republic will be reorganized into the first Galactic Empire!"



The Senate applauded. The new Emperor basked in his power.
But Padmé knew something wasn't quite right.
"So this is how liberty dies."



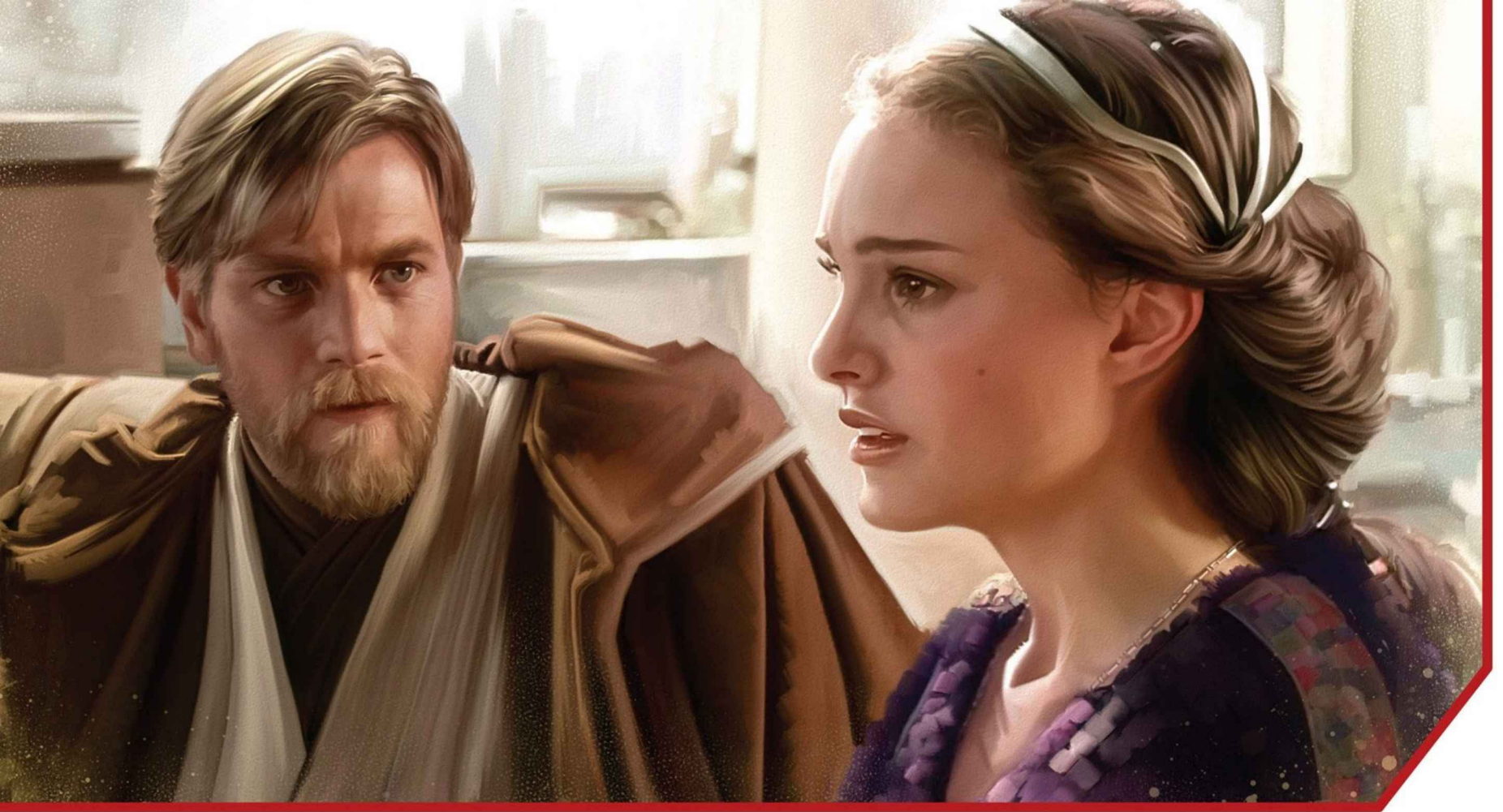


Once they had disabled the coded signal, Obi-Wan and Yoda stumbled on a hologram of Anakin's pledge of loyalty to Darth Sidious.

"It can't be," Obi-Wan lamented as he watched his friend kneel to evil incarnate.

"The boy you trained, gone he is," Yoda explained, "consumed by Darth Vader."





Obi-Wan had to find Anakin, but he did not know where his former Padawan could be. He hoped Padmé could help.

"He's in grave danger," Obi-Wan explained.

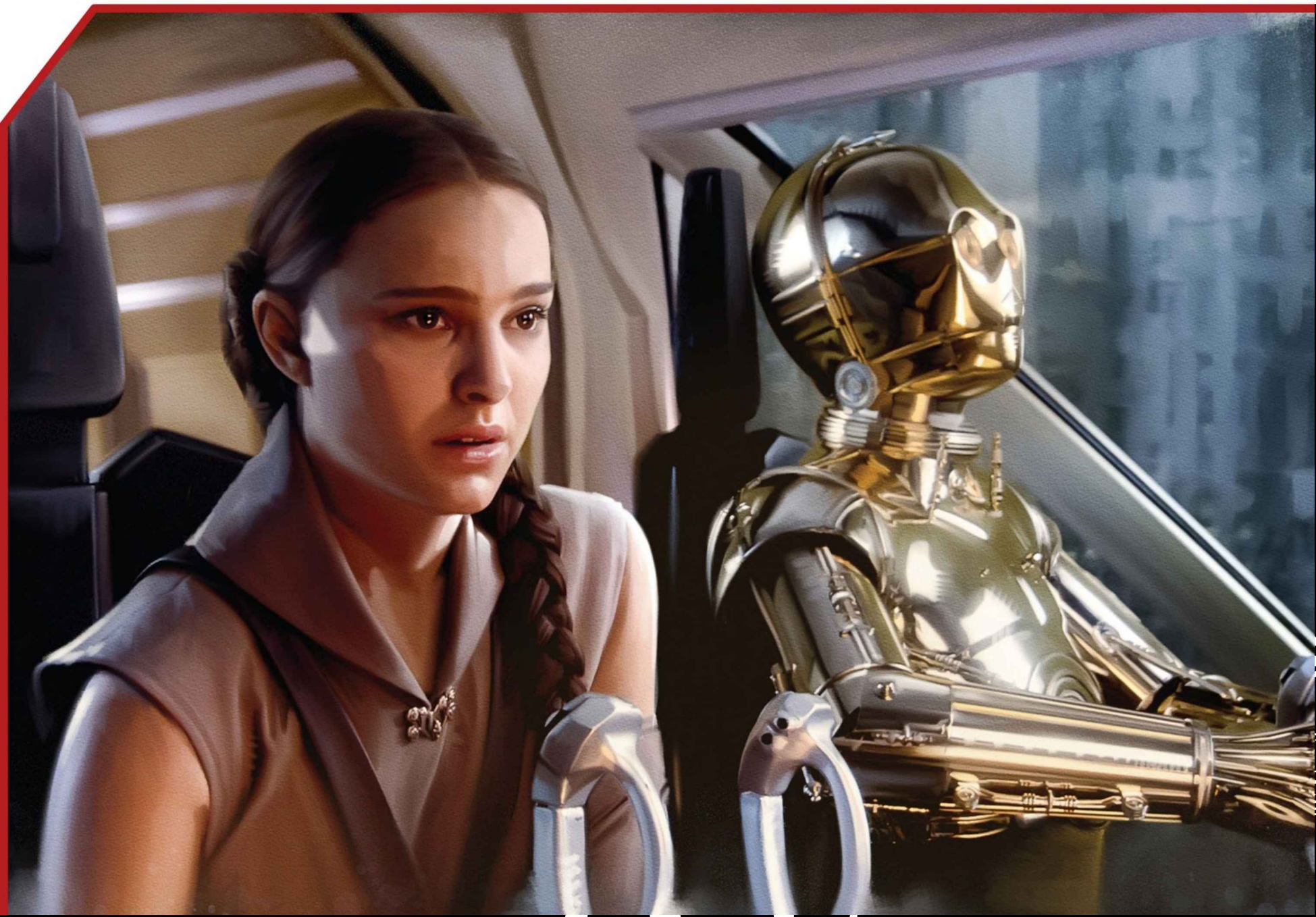
"From the Sith?" Padmé was confused and angry.

"From himself," Obi-Wan answered.

Whatever Anakin was going through, Padmé wouldn't let him face it alone. And she wouldn't help Obi-Wan find him. What if Obi-Wan were to hurt him?

EMPIRE ASCENDANT

Padmé knew that Palpatine had sent Anakin on a mission to Mustafar. She decided she would travel there by herself and save him. Obi-Wan expected as much. So when Padmé and her protocol droid, C-3PO, boarded a ship, the Jedi Master stowed away on board.



Meanwhile, on Mustafar, Darth Vader's evil grew stronger. His friends may have thought they could still bring him back to the light, but if Padmé and Obi-Wan could have seen him in that moment, they would have understood. . . . The man they had once known as Anakin Skywalker was already lost to the dark side of the Force.





THE RULE OF TWO



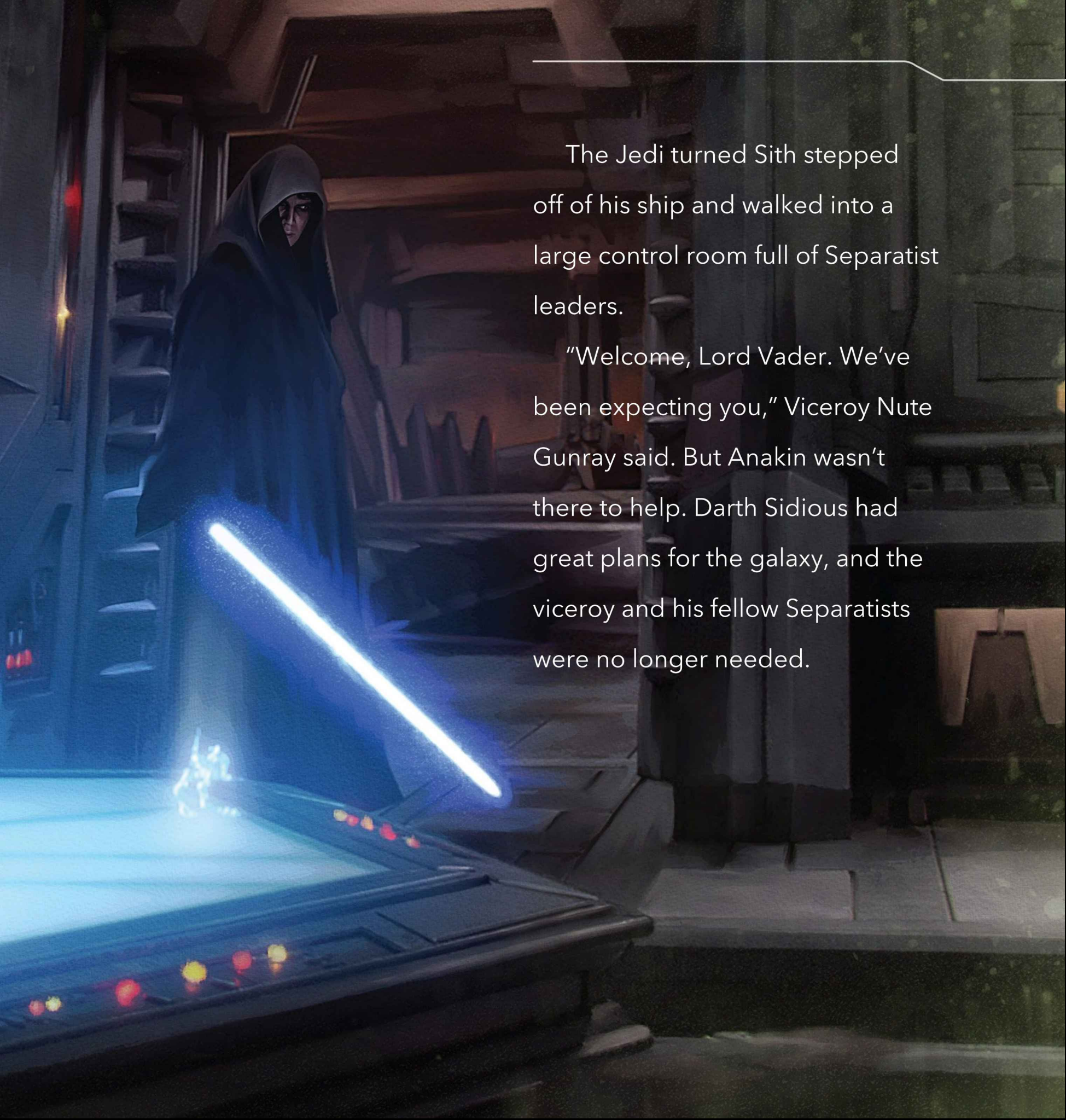


THE RULE OF TWO

Anakin Skywalker had been on many missions. Along with his Jedi Master Obi-Wan Kenobi, he had traveled the galaxy as a Jedi Knight, fighting for peace. But things had changed. He was on a very different mission, and he and Obi-Wan were no longer fighting side by side.

Anakin had given in to the dark side. He had joined Darth Sidious, a Sith Lord, who had named him Darth Vader and sent him to the fiery planet of Mustafar on a mission Obi-Wan would never have allowed.





The Jedi turned Sith stepped off of his ship and walked into a large control room full of Separatist leaders.

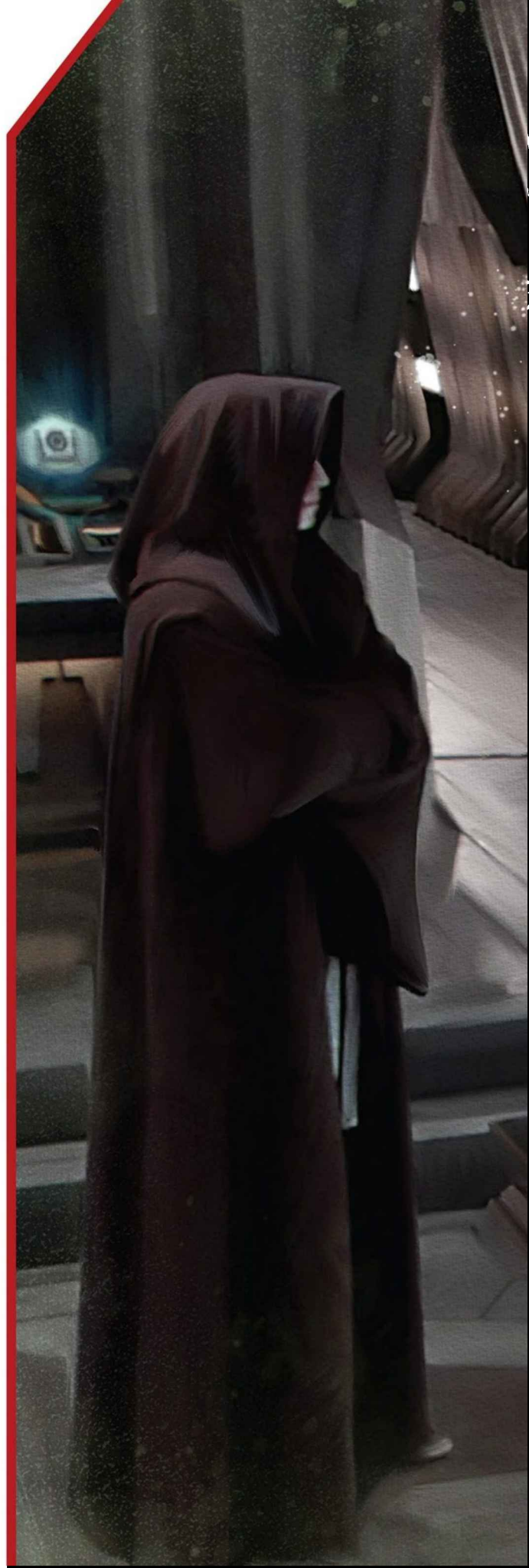
"Welcome, Lord Vader. We've been expecting you," Viceroy Nute Gunray said. But Anakin wasn't there to help. Darth Sidious had great plans for the galaxy, and the viceroy and his fellow Separatists were no longer needed.

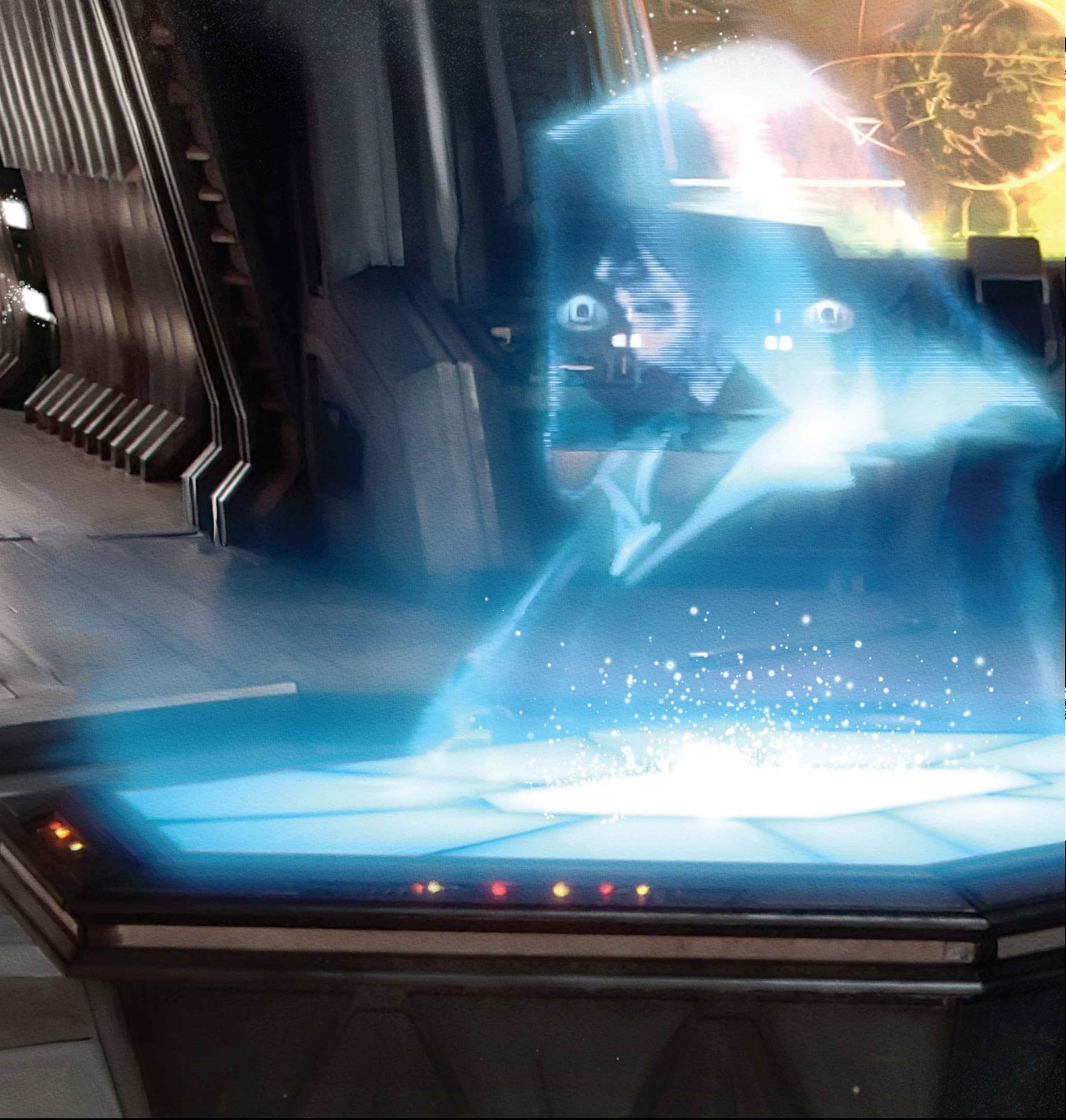
Once all the Separatist leaders were defeated, the young Sith contacted Darth Sidious to report his mission's success.

"It is finished then," said Darth Sidious. "You have restored peace and justice to the galaxy."

For years, Sidious had worked in secret, and his plans were nearly complete. The evil Sith Lord controlled the Senate, the clone army, and a powerful new apprentice. No one could stand in his way.

The man once called Anakin ended the transmission and glanced at a screen. A ship had entered the planet's orbit. On board was his wife, Padmé. She was supposed to be on Coruscant, waiting for their child to be born. What was she doing there?





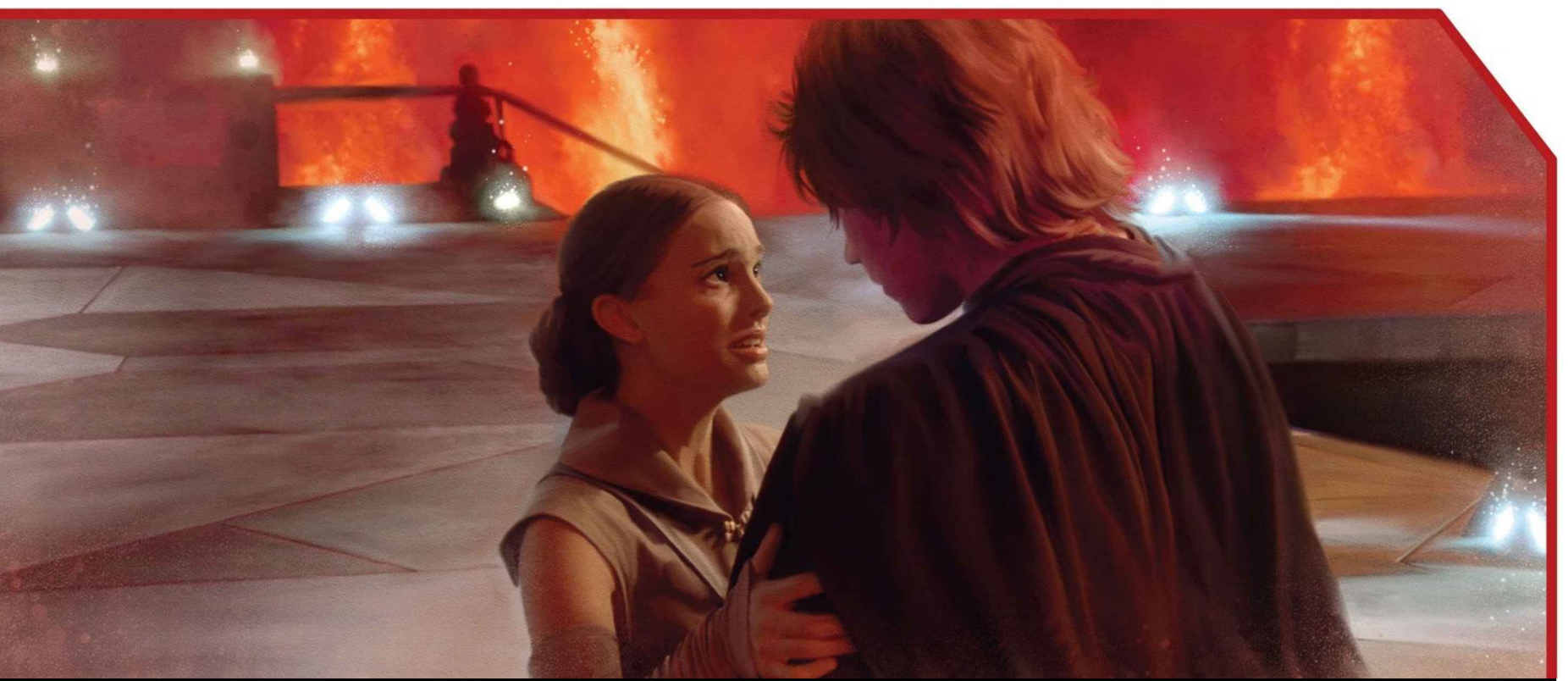
Padmé ran off the ship and into her husband's arms.

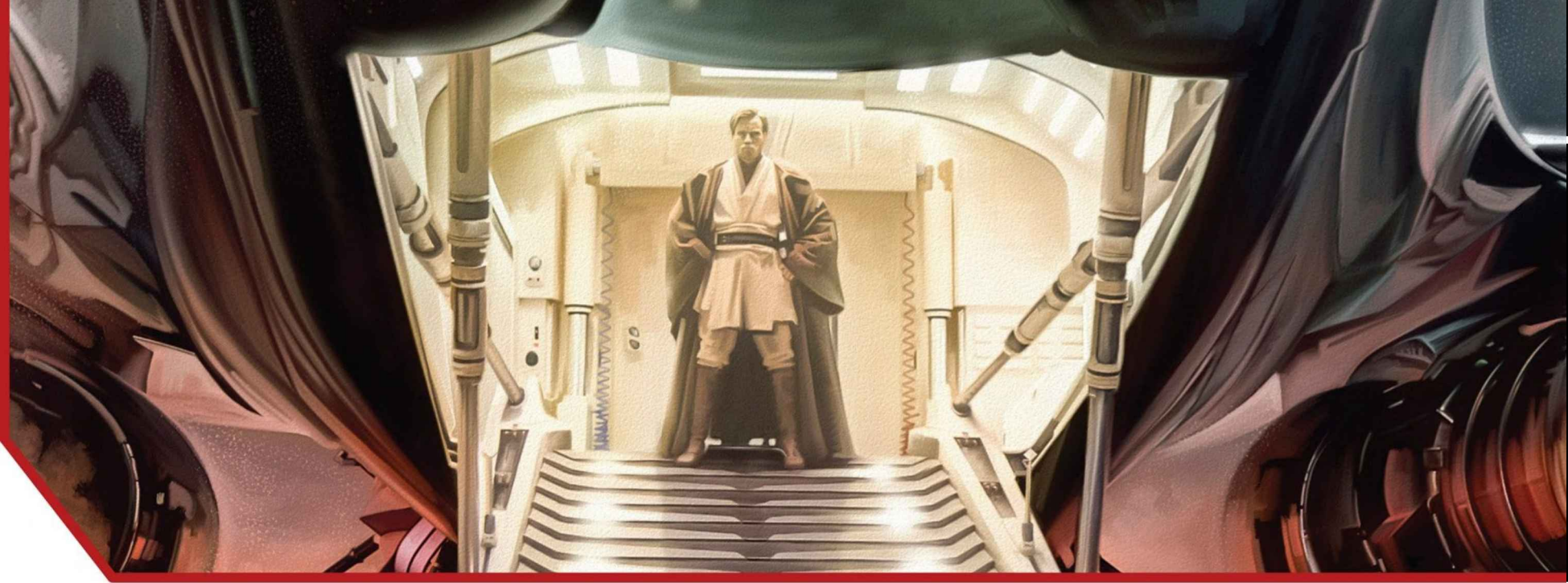
"Obi-Wan told me terrible things. He said you've turned to the dark side," Padmé said.

"Obi-Wan is trying to turn you against me," the young Sith replied angrily. "I am becoming more powerful than any Jedi has ever dreamed of."

Padmé backed away from the man she used to trust so easily. He wasn't the boy she had met on Tatooine. He had become something else.

"Obi-Wan was right. You've changed," Padmé said, beginning to cry.





Just then, Obi-Wan appeared behind Padmé! He was on his own mission. Master Yoda had ordered Obi-Wan to track down his old Padawan and do whatever was necessary to stop him. Obi-Wan had stowed away on Padmé's ship, knowing she would eventually lead him to his former friend.

"You are with him! You brought him here!" the Sith apprentice accused Padmé. He used the Force to knock her to the ground.

Obi-Wan searched the young man's face, looking for a glimpse of the Jedi he had once known, searching for Anakin. But the young man had become so twisted by the dark side that there was nothing in him Obi-Wan recognized.





"You have allowed this dark lord to twist your mind until now you have become the very thing you swore to destroy," Obi-Wan told his former Padawan.

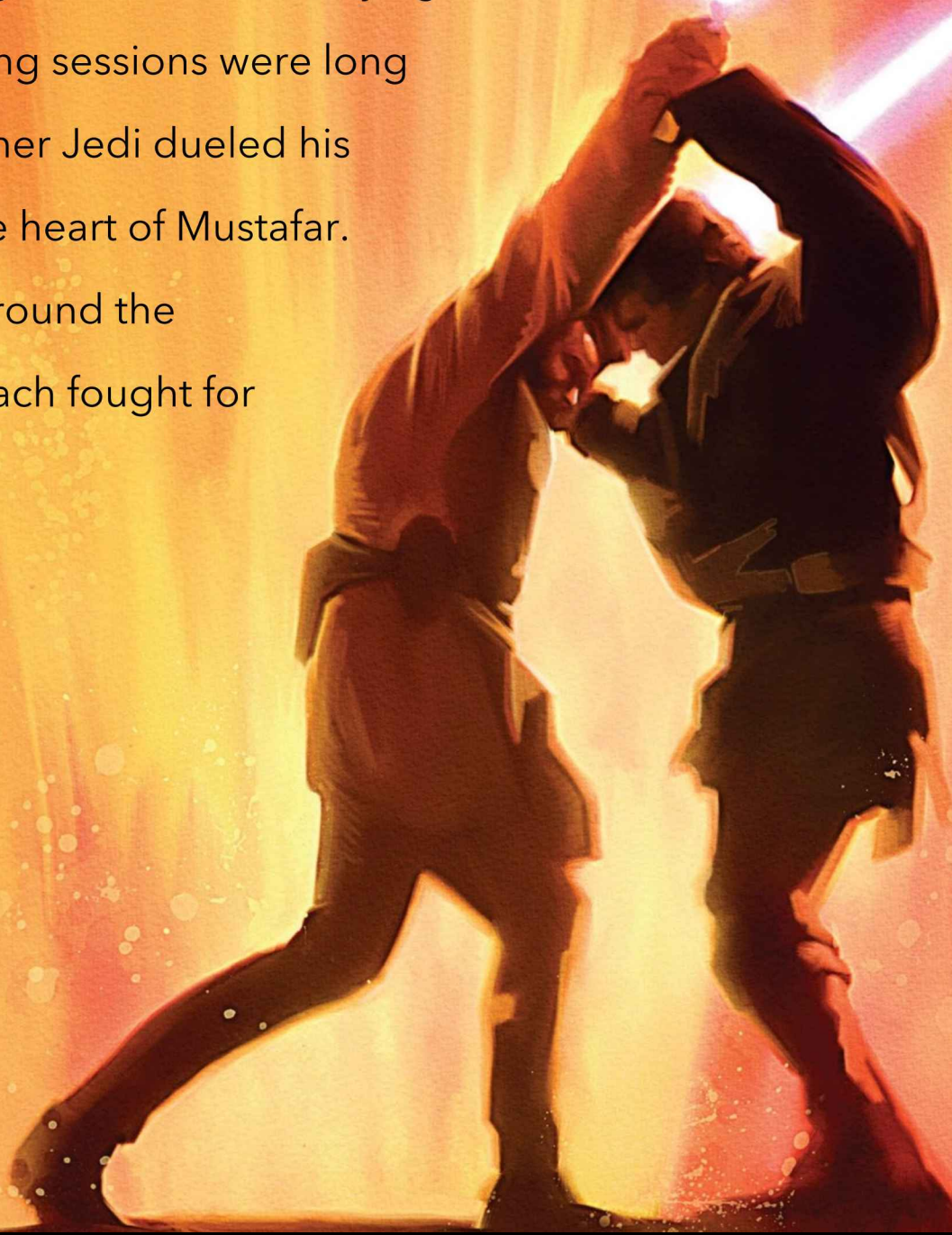
"If you are not with me, then you're my enemy," the young Sith replied.

"Only a Sith deals in absolutes. I will do what I must," Obi-Wan said, preparing to battle.

The young man leapt backward, lightsaber raised. Obi-Wan's own blade slashed through the air to meet it. Both blue lightsabers clashed wildly against each other as the Jedi and the Sith battled through the control room.

Obi-Wan could almost believe that it was just another training session, that he was just showing his Padawan a new stance. He could almost imagine that in a moment, the young man would raise his hands up in defeat, groan about losing, and then ask to try again.

But those training sessions were long past. Now the former Jedi dueled his old master into the heart of Mustafar. Hot lava poured around the enemies as they each fought for the upper hand.





Obi-Wan jumped to a small piece of metal in the sea of lava and stared at the young man he had once known so well. "I have failed you, Anakin," he cried.

"This is the end for you, my Master," the Sith apprentice replied, twirling his lightsaber and preparing for the final confrontation.

But Obi-Wan had taken a moment to look around him and realized there was a chance to end the battle. He leapt to higher ground, clinching the advantage he would need.



But the young Sith was so full of rage he couldn't stop. He leapt angrily toward his old master, and Obi-Wan had no choice. His lightsaber slashed, and Darth Vader fell to the ground before him.

"You were the chosen one! It was said that you would destroy the Sith, not join them. Bring balance to the Force, not leave it in darkness!"



Obi-Wan yelled, staring down at what remained of the boy he had once trained.

“You were my brother, Anakin. I loved you.” Obi-Wan picked up Anakin Skywalker’s lightsaber and turned away from the Sith apprentice.

Obi-Wan hated all that had happened. When he returned to the ship, a heartbroken Padmé doubled over in pain. The Jedi Master needed to get her to safety.

As Obi-Wan piloted the ship away from the fiery planet, he thought about the young man named Anakin Skywalker and all the adventures they had shared.





DARTH VADER RISES



It was a dark day for the Jedi Order. With the help of his new apprentice, Darth Vader, the former Jedi Anakin Skywalker, Darth Sidious had seized control of the Galactic Republic, named himself Emperor, and destroyed the Jedi Order. The only Jedi left to protect the galaxy were Obi-Wan Kenobi and the old Jedi Master Yoda.

It was now Yoda's job to confront the Sith Lord.

"I hear a new apprentice you have,
Emperor."

Palpatine was shocked to see that Yoda was still alive but reveled in the chance to be personally responsible for the old Jedi's end.

The two Force wielders raised their weapons and attacked each other relentlessly. They dueled out of the Emperor's chambers and onto the Senate floor.

Yoda jumped out of danger as the Emperor dismantled the Senate and threw heavy debris at him again and again. When Yoda finally managed to get out of the way, the Emperor attacked him with powerful Force lightning. It took all Yoda had in him to divert the energy.

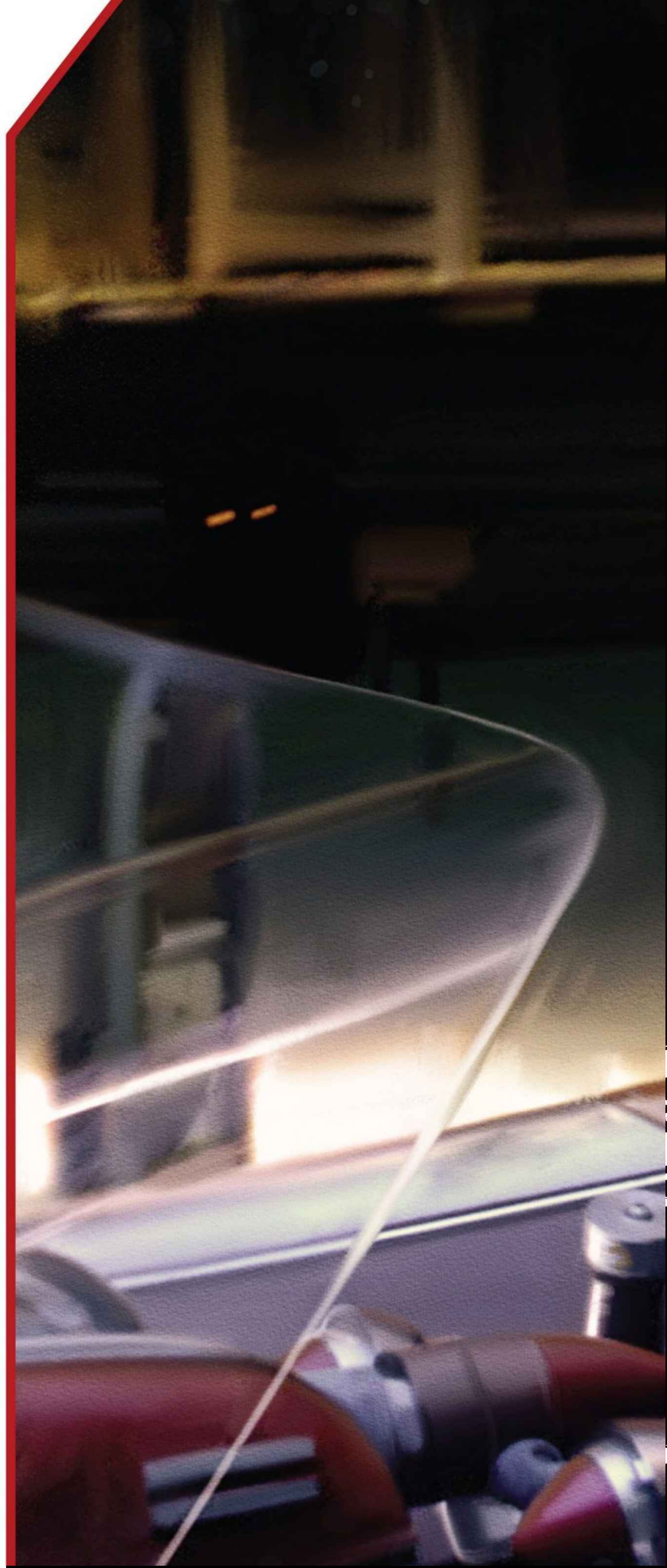




Falling back onto the floor of the Senate, Yoda knew that he was defeated. If the Jedi Order had any hope of a future, he had to escape.

Crawling away beneath the floor, Master Yoda rendezvoused with Senator Bail Organa, one of the only friends he had left. Leaping into Bail's speeder, Yoda watched as the Senate building fell away behind him.

"Into exile I must go," said the Jedi. "Failed I have."





As Yoda and Bail Organa escaped, the Emperor hurried to the planet Mustafar. He sensed correctly that all was not right with his new apprentice. During an epic duel with his former Jedi Master, Obi-Wan, Anakin Skywalker, now Darth Vader, had been defeated and badly wounded.

Darth Vader was vital to the Emperor's future plans. Sidious commanded his troops to collect what remained of the young man from the fiery rocks and take him to the med bay on board his ship.



Meanwhile, hidden away in a corner of the galaxy, the Jedi tried to regroup. Obi-Wan, who had reunited with Yoda and Bail, watched helplessly as a heartbroken Padmé Amidala gave birth.

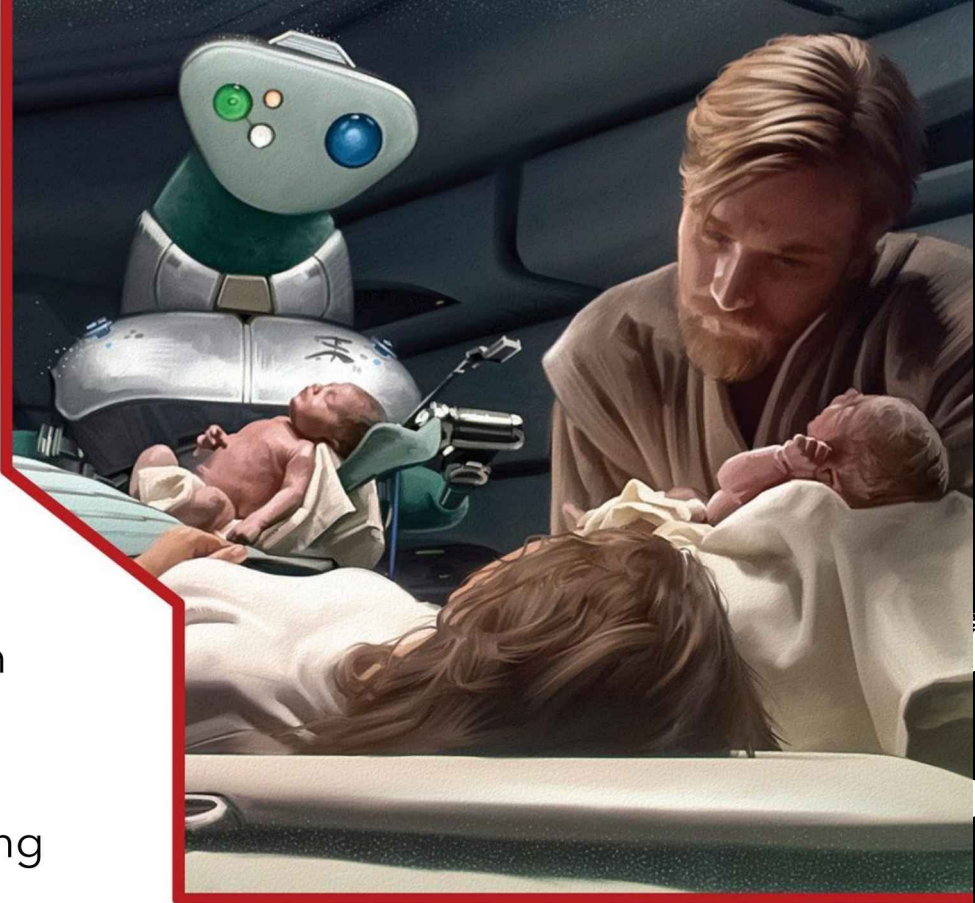
Padmé had secretly wed the young man once known as Anakin Skywalker.

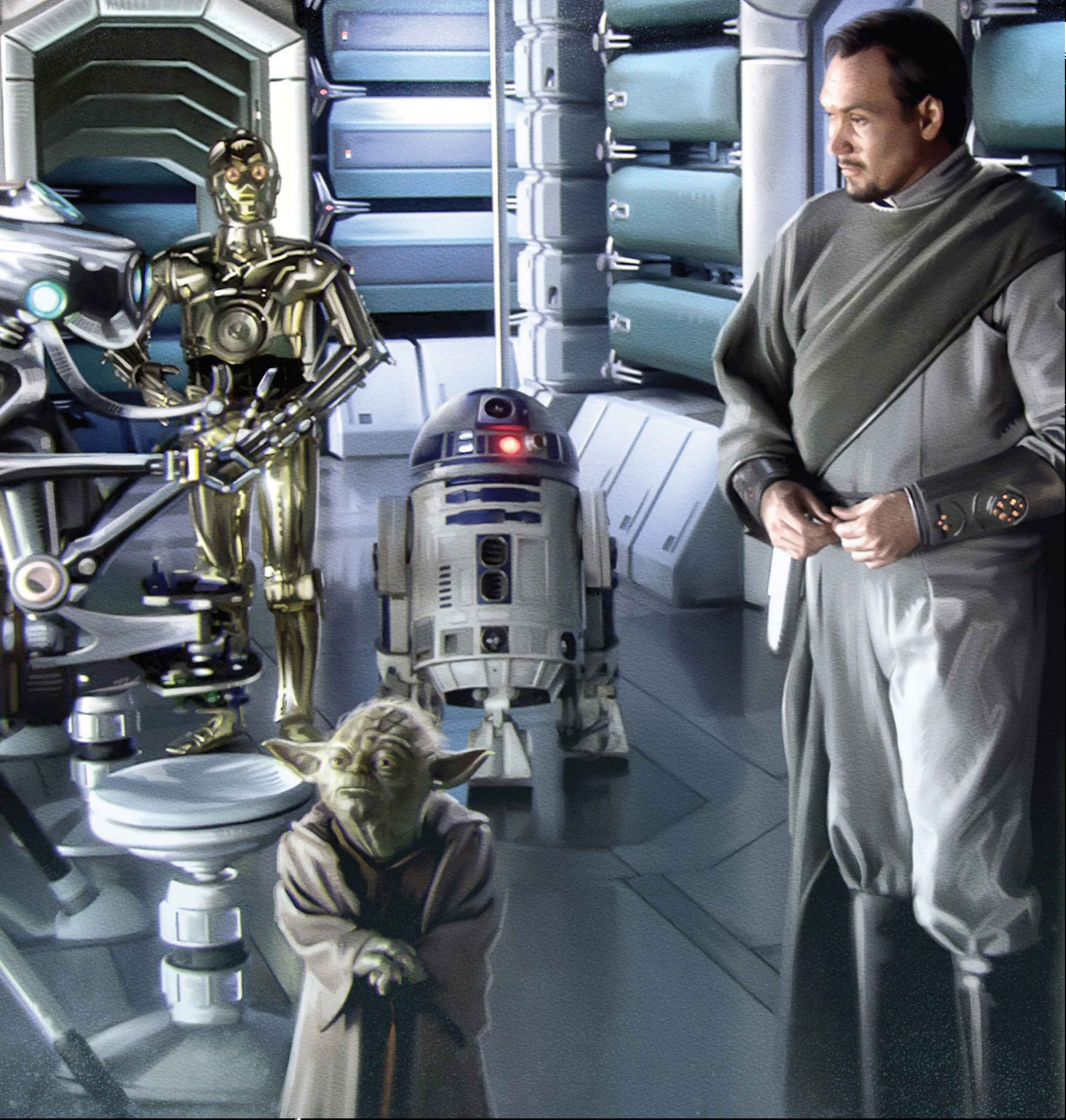
But there was another surprise. Obi-Wan was handed not one child but two! They were twins.

Padmé looked at her children, and she named them Luke and Leia. Then she looked to Obi-Wan.

"There's good in him. I know," Padmé said, speaking of her husband as her eyes slowly closed.

Obi-Wan looked at the orphaned twins, knowing that they were the hope for the future that the Jedi needed to believe in—that *he* needed to believe in.







Obi-Wan, Master Yoda, and Bail Organa were not strong enough to take on the Emperor and Darth Vader. For now, all they could do was keep the twins safe from the Sith. Bail offered to adopt Leia and raise her on his home planet of Alderaan. Obi-Wan would take Luke to live with his distant family on the desert planet of Tatooine.

Yoda looked at Obi-Wan, sensing they would not see each other again for a long time. The exile of the Jedi had begun.

"Until the time is right, disappear we will," he said.



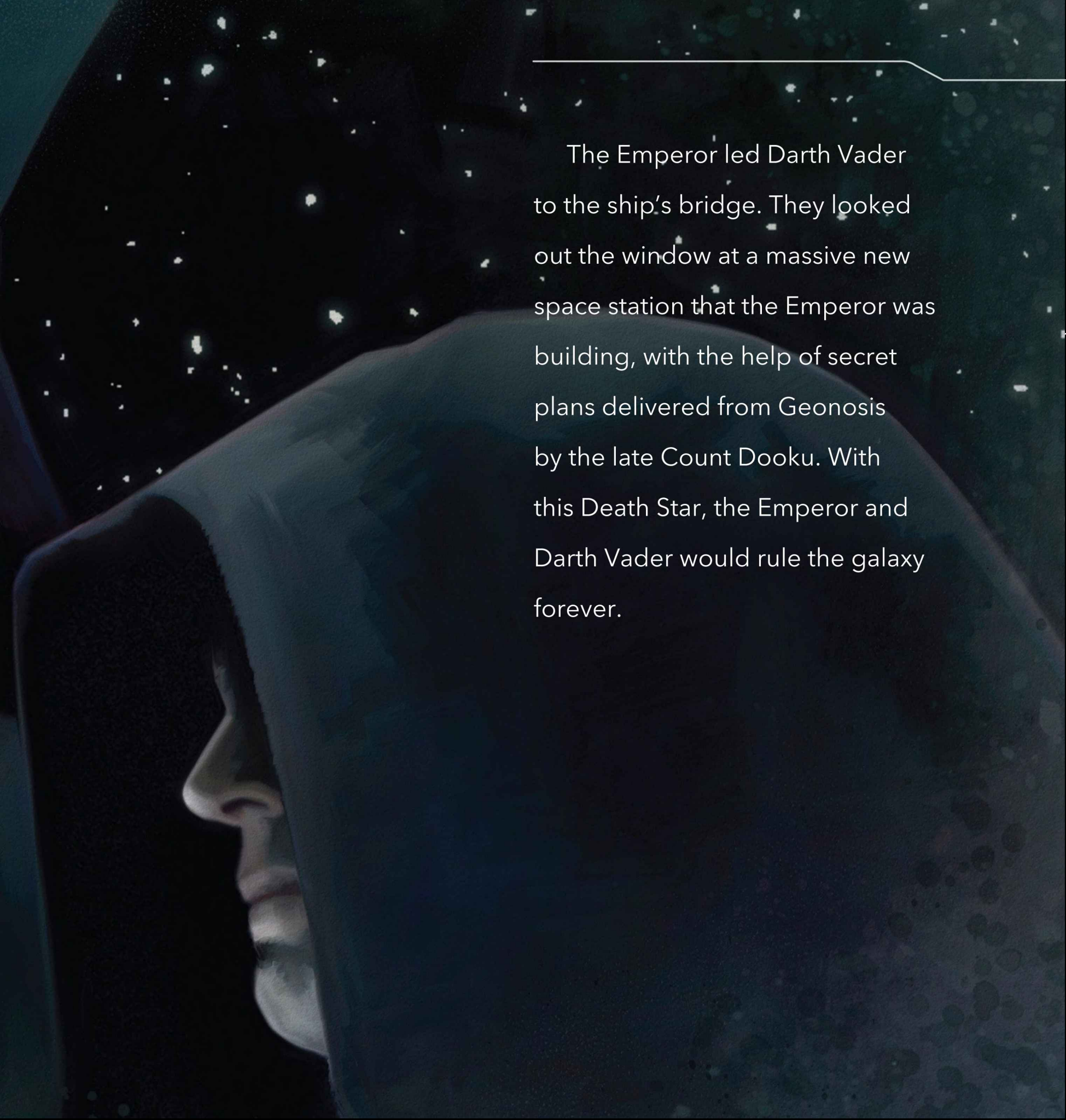


The Emperor's medical unit had done all they could for Darth Vader. To keep him alive, they placed him in protective black armor with a sculpted helmet that altered his voice.

His journey to the dark side complete, Darth Vader was more machine than man. Although he had failed to save Padmé, the man once known as Anakin Skywalker was too intoxicated by the power of the dark side to turn from it now.

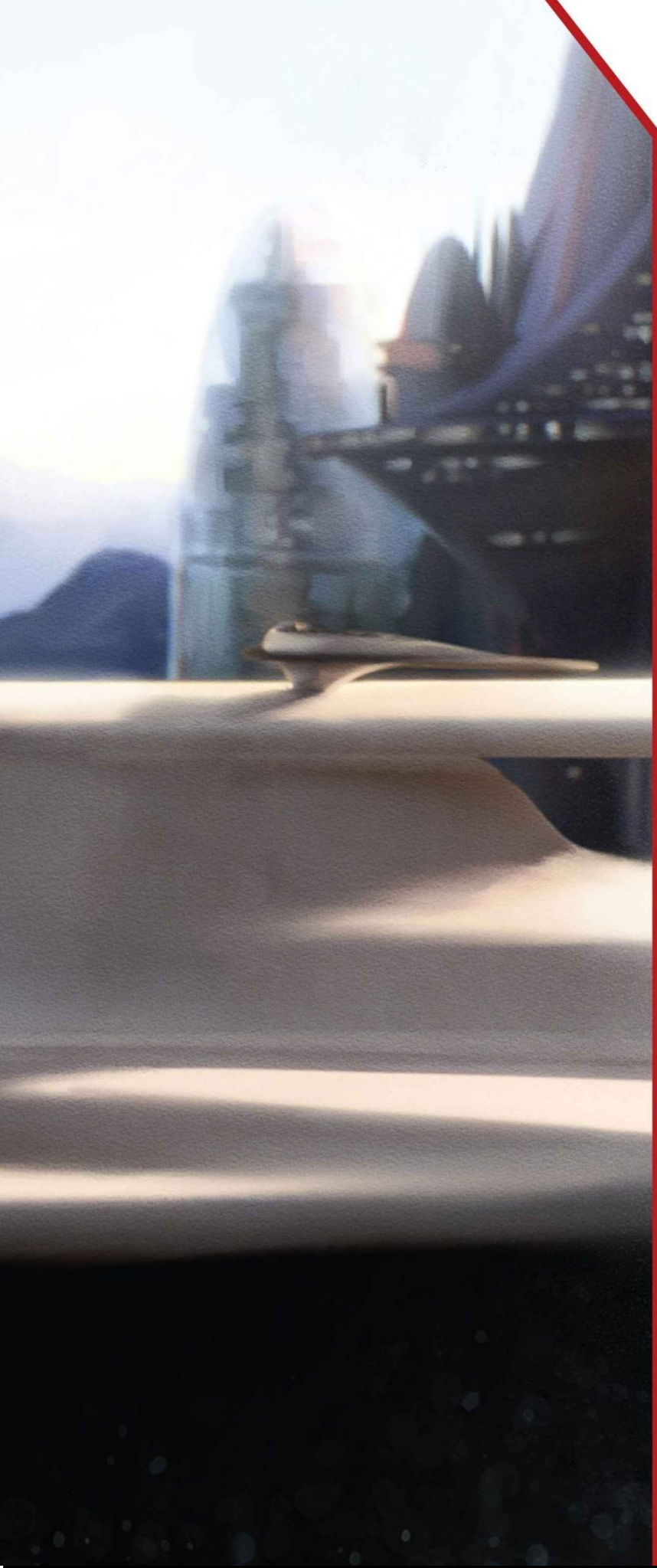






The Emperor led Darth Vader to the ship's bridge. They looked out the window at a massive new space station that the Emperor was building, with the help of secret plans delivered from Geonosis by the late Count Dooku. With this Death Star, the Emperor and Darth Vader would rule the galaxy forever.





Far away from the Death Star, Bail Organa watched as his wife held their new daughter. There was a lot of work to be done. Bail was determined to create some sort of secret rebellion against the Emperor. But as he looked at his wife and daughter, Bail decided that his plans could wait—for just one day.



When Obi-Wan reached Tatooine, a young woman walked out of her home to meet him. It was Luke's aunt Beru. Obi-Wan handed the baby to his aunt and uncle and made his way deep into the desert. He would wait, protecting Luke from a distance.

As the twin suns set above them, Beru and Owen held their new child close. Little did they know that the baby was the galaxy's greatest hope.



